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The Queen assures Berlin it does not stand alone



Queen Elizabeth has reaffirmed Britain's commitment to help maintain Berlin's freedom and security.

She did so at a reception in the Orangerie of Charlottenburg Castle shortly after her arrival in Berlin for celebrations to mark the city's 750th anniversary.

The Queen said her presence was a further testimony to Britain's determination to maintain its support, which was, she said, as strong as ever, for as long as it was needed.

Having first visited the city in 1965, she recalled to an audience of about 400 what had since been achieved in Berlin — and "not merely in respect of its external transformation into a more flourishing and more beautiful city."

Berlin's ties with the West, especially with the Federal Republic of Germany, *and with the European Community had* been further strengthened and intensified.

Due to the efforts of the people of Berlin and to the firm backing and generous support of the Federal Republic the city's *reputation as a centre of the arts, of* scientific research and of high technology was continually on the increase.

Confidence in the future was, she said, a prerequisite of further progress. It was a confidence that could only be gained in a climate of stability.

So the main aim of the three Western protecting powers must be to ensure that a climate prevailed in which the freedom and security of the city could be guaranteed.

"Today this task is performed in har*mony and in close cooperation* with the Federal German and the Berlin authorities," the Queen said, "and it is essential for the city's future that this continues to be the case."

She recalled in her address the *very* longstanding friendship that linked Britain and Germany, especially Berlin. Frederick the Great, whose spirit filled Charlottenburg Castle, had been a loyal ally of Britain's, so it was appropriate "on this occasion and in these rooms to *recall the city's great past.*"

Might the dreadful division be surmounted in the spirit of Berlin's long tradition of tolerance and the city that today symbolised the division of Europe one day become the symbol of its unity?

Foreign Minister Genscher thanked the Queen for her country's firm and determined support of Berlin.

At the height of the Cold War the Berlin Wall had been built. It was still a bitter reality but now seemed like a ves*tige of another age, an age in which* mention had yet to be made of Europe as a "common house."

It had also been a time when the Final Act had yet to be signed at Helsinki, *setting the course for a European peace* order.

Jointly with Great Britain, Herr *Genscher said, the Federal Republic* was working to bring about an improvement in East-West ties.

"We want, by means of dialogue, cooperation and disarmament, to give Europe greater security and stability *and to put into practice the rights the* people of Europe were promised in the Final Act at Helsinki."

*Every move that improved the situa*tion in Europe also served to improve the position of Germans in East and West. German policy was and would remain a policy of peace in Europe. Governing Mayor Diepgen, who also *thanked the Queen for Britain's com*mitment to Berlin, advocated a common approach to East-West dialogue.

"We will only succeed if we in the West arrive at and advocate a joint position," he said.

Despite division the need for a joint approach was most keenly felt in Berlin. *Confidence-building*, security and cooperation were needed nowhere more badly than in Berlin.

Nowhere was their practical implementation more effective for the peo*ple and parties concerned in East and* West.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, arrived at RAF Gatow in the late afternoon of 26 May, being welcomed by the British *ambassad*or in Bonn, Sir Julian Bullard, the British commanding officer in Berlin, General Brooking, the Governing Mayor and the US and French commanding officers.

After the welcoming ceremony, in which Western Allied honour guards took part, *the Queen and Prince Philip* drove to Villa Lemm, the residence of the British commanding officer, where *they were to stay for their two days in* Berlin.

Early that evening they arrived at Charlottenburg Castle for the reception held in their honour by Governing Mayor Diepgen.

On 27 May the Queen attended the traditional Queen's Birthday *Parade* of the British Berlin garrison at the Maifeld ground, near the Olympic Stadium.

Over 1,000 British servicemen took part in the parade, driving tracked and wheeled vehicles. The ceremony was well attended by local crowds and visitors.

After a reception at the British headquarters the Queen met the chairman of the board of governors of the Kaiser Wilhelm Foundation, Prince Louis

Continued on page 2



A royal occasion: the Queen (centre) in Berlin with, from left: Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh; Frau Marianne von Weizsäcker, wife of Bonn President Richard von Weizsäcker; Herr von Weizsäcker; and the Mayor of West Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Teenager flyer shakes up the Kremlin

What first seemed a hilarious exploit soon had far-reaching consequences. Young German pilot Matthias Rust's *story-book landing on* Red Square in Moscow led to the dismissal of two Soviet marshals, with more officers likely to follow.

Mr Gorbachov reacted harshly by sacking Defence Minister Sokolov and air defence chief Koldunov.

The political leadership thus clearly *showed the military leaders who holds* the reins of Soviet power and who is expected to knuckle under.

This has not always been the case. In autumn 1983, for instance, Soviet inter*ceptor aircraft shot down a South Ko*rean Jumbo killing 269 passengers and crew near Sakhalin.

The affair seriously damaged the Soviet Union's political reputation but the *military assumed responsibility for the* incident and escaped virtually unscathed.

General Koldunov was air defence chief at the time and kept his job, as did Defence Minister Ustinov, who was also a member of the politbureau.

The Korean Jumbo tragedy demonstrated to the world at large the power of the Soviet marshals.

The Kremlin leaders have since learnt their lesson. Since Marshal Ustinov's death the defence portfolio has been held by a professional soldier with no political ambitions, Marshal Sokolov.

There is no change now he has been pensioned. His successor, General Yasov, has no political clout either.

Mr Gorbachov has come out of the affair well. His handling of it has won him stature both at home and abroad.

Even such a strong opponent of Moscow as US Defence Secretary Wein*berger praised the way Gorbachov play*ed it.

Why Rust flew to Moscow is of minor importance. He can hardly have flown the 500 miles from Helsinki, let alone *have landed on Red Square, by accident* or mistake.

The Soviet authorities will be trying to find out *exactly* what made him do it. Was it bravado? Was it a bet? Or perhaps an intelligence mission of some kind?

Twenty-five years ago another seem*ing lone ranger, Gary Powers,* flew over the Soviet Union in a U 2 plane.

He was shot down over Siberia and convicted of espionage. The Paris summit Mr Khrushchev and President *Kennedy were due to hold was called* off.

In the present case diplomatic crises seem to be ruled out. Neither Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker's *forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union* nor a possible positive outcome to the Geneva missile talks is likely to be jeopardised by the Cessna that landed in Red Square.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 June 1987)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Uncomfortable facts of life give Nato new challenges

DIE WELT

Two things have emerged since the Brussels spring conference of 14 North Atlantic Defence Ministers.

First, Nato will need to invest much more heavily in conventional defence now it can no longer rely on nuclear security. Nuclear weapons are cheaper but there are many — mainly irrational — grounds against them.

Second, there are increasing signs that the United States is turning its back on Europe.

Congressional readiness to continue stationing more than 300,000 US servicemen in Europe, as America has done for decades, seems to be on the wane.

Europeans would then face the problem of bridging the military gap. This challenge could hardly come at a more inconvenient moment.

The Bundeswehr, as the backbone of European conventional defence, will soon have virtually insuperable difficulty in maintaining manpower at its present level.

The final communiqué of the two-day Nato Ministerial conference dealt with these topics strictly in the customary language of diplomacy. In other words, it sought to conceal them rather than to bring them out into the open.

Yet at one point it did not quite succeed: where Nato referred to the solution-defying task of concentrating, in a fresh round of disarmament talks, "on the elimination of the serious imbalance in conventional forces and their fighting strength in the Warsaw Pact's favour and on the ability to stage a surprise attack and large-scale offensive moves."

None of the Defence Ministers who met in Brussels was able to explain how this was to be achieved.

Yet they all realise that with Europe denuded of longer-range intermediate US nuclear forces (as a result of the double zero option) the psychological and political importance of Soviet superiority in non-nuclear military potential will increase.

They are also well aware that the Kremlin appreciates the fact, and it is hard to see why Moscow should part company with this means of bringing pressure to bear on Nato.

The West would very much like the Soviet Union to do so, but it has no incentive at its disposal that might interest the Soviet Union in reducing its capacity to invade the West.

Far from it: since Mr Gorbachov has held the reins in Moscow the Soviet Union has been felt in the West to be ready to disarm.

Yet it can hardly be said to be so where the conventional sector is concerned.

That was why Nato Defence Ministers recalled, in their final communiqué, "the realities of growing Soviet military strength."

To this the pact probably has only one response that is not interlinked, in disarmament talks, with the hope principle.

Credible defences must be maintained, and there will be "no alternative in the foreseeable future" to forward defence and to the alliance's flexible response strategy.

This view is shared by Nato Defence Ministers only. What Foreign Ministers feel, or how governments as a whole see the position, is vaguer than ever.

There seems to be more than mere skin-deep significance in the fact that Nato Foreign Ministers have stopped meeting in the same week and at the same venue as Defence Ministers.

In years gone by there was a week of Nato gatherings in Brussels, with Defence Ministers starting the ball rolling and Foreign Ministers concluding the proceedings. This combination testified to continuity and, arguably, even to harmony.

This year Nato Foreign Ministers are not to meet until 11 June, when the North Atlantic Council confers in Reykjavik.

They will be discussing the "finer points" of policy — disarmament —, having left the "coarser" details of defence planning to their colleagues who met in Brussels.

Rüdiger Moniac

(Die Welt, Bonn, 29 May 1987)

Continued from page 1

Ferdinand of Prussia, in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church.

She then walked round the city centre and visited Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker at his Berlin official residence, Schloss Bellevue.

In making this gesture the Queen followed the example set by President Mitterrand of France, who paid his respects to the Federal President at Schloss Bellevue on 11 May. He was the first visiting head of state to do so.

Other members of the British royal family are to visit Berlin during its 750th anniversary celebration. The Queen Mother is expected from 7 to 9 July.

Princess Anne will be visiting the city on 20 and 21 July as honorary colonel of the Queen's Own Hussars.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana are due to visit Berlin on 1 November.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 May 1987)

Gorbachov takes a trip to paper over the cracks

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Mikhail Gorbachov has been visiting East Bloc capital cities to demonstrate the Soviet presence.

He stopped over in Bucharest before flying to East Berlin for the Warsaw Pact summit. He had previously been to Prague, where he startled the West with a multicoloured assortment of new disarmament proposals.

There are a variety of views about Gorbachov's political aims in going to Bucharest and East Berlin. But there are also points in common.

The Soviet leader was in Bucharest on a bilateral visit. He was in East Berlin for a multilateral gathering of the East Bloc's military pact.

Yet there is a close inner connection between the reform policies that will have been high on the agenda of his talks with the Rumanian leader, Mr Ceausescu, and the disarmament and detente problems reviewed at the Warsaw Pact summit in East Germany.

Soviet proposals in both sectors are aimed, in the final analysis, at easing the burden on inefficient East Bloc economies and making them more productive from the viewpoint of dissatisfied consumers.

This simple insight is by no means universally accepted in Eastern Europe, as is nowhere more clearly illustrated than by the inflexible attitude adopted by the Rumanian leadership.

The long-suffering Balkan country, which has become an intimidating caricature of latter-day communist poverty as a result of failed economic policies, repeatedly comes up with disarmament initiatives of its own (some worth taking seriously, some not), but will hear nothing of economic reforms.

No-one has so strongly opposed the slightest change in the traditional communist system as Rumanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu.

He clearly sees any mention of more power to market forces, of free competition or even of the most modest forms of private property as a betrayal of communism and its principles.

In using ideological formulas of this kind, which in the final analysis are aimed at safeguarding the basis of his personal power, Mr Ceausescu has emerged as the very antithesis of Mr Gorbachov, the reforming zealot.

Widely though their motives differ, Mr Ceausescu's hostility toward reforms has much in common with the views held in East Berlin, although communist leaders there, unlike in Rumania, can at least reject the Soviet model of reform on the basis of an incontestably more efficient East German economy.

Bucharest and East Berlin can count on a measure of support from Prague, although Czechoslovakia has partly abandoned what initially was staunch resistance to the Soviet reform policy.

Mr Gorbachov may not intend all his Warsaw Pact allies to uncritically to the Soviet line, but how, as individual Comecon economies progressively drift apart, is closer economic cooperation to be effectively put into practice?

This is definitely a decisive question for Eastern Europe. Unless an answer is found it will only imperfectly be able to boost economic efficiency.

Differences can be bridged over for a while by superficial agreement on security policy issues.

Solidarity in support of successive and varied disarmament and peace initiatives launched by the Soviet leader presents the "fraternal states" with no problems and may lead to a measure of material relief of the burden on their economies.

But this demonstration of unity cannot disguise the fact that unity has long ceased to exist on domestic and economic policy issues that can hardly be said to be less important. Deep rifts criss-cross the East Bloc.

Harry Schleicher

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 May 1987)

Who should do what to protect oil route

WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE

When fighting between Iran and Iraq began in 1980 and oils shipments came under threat, President Carter referred to vital US interests in the Gulf and a rapid deployment force was set up.

Ever since, America has regularly called on its partners in Europe to help protect the oil route.

The American argument at the time was that Europe and Japan buy much more Gulf oil than the United States. They still do, although reliance on Gulf oil in general has since declined.

The argument then against deploying Nato forces in the Gulf was that the area is not part of the territory covered by the terms of the North Atlantic Treaty. That argument is still valid.

West Germany's constitution rules out the use of Bundeswehr units except for national defence and Nato commitments.

So German support for the US military commitment in the Gulf can at best consist of countervailing moves within Nato that ease the burden of US commitments to the North Atlantic pact.

It is another matter for countries such as Britain, which as a former world and colonial power has entirely different traditions.

Defence Secretary Weinberger will have borne these points in mind when calling, with a measure of restraint, on America's allies to lend the United States a hand in the Gulf.

A far more important issue is, however, whether stepping up military commitments is the right approach.

The Gulf states themselves, threatened though they may feel themselves to be by the war and its repercussions, do not take kindly to the idea of foreign units in the region.

They see an attendant risk of being dragged into a clash between the superpowers.

A more meaningful approach would surely be for the United States to aim more keenly at cooperation with the Soviet Union, especially with a view to stemming the tide of arms supplies to the belligerents.

If this were to be the approach, it would effectively bring to an end the threat to "vital interests" in the Arabian Gulf.

Klaus Kleebaum

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 28 May 1987)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Coalition at sixes and sevens on disarmament

Bonn should be seen to be taking foreign policy initiatives in unison with other Western Europeans countries, especially France, one of Chancellor Kohl's adviser's emphasised after the general election in January.

Just a few months later, the advice has a hollow ring. Bonn has been struggling for weeks to find an answer to a question of crucial significance for the Germans: how to respond to the Gorbachov disarmament proposals.

The government must know what it itself wants before it can talk with its allies. But it doesn't. There are differences of opinion between the CDU and the CSU; within the CDU; within the CSU; and, above all, between them both and the FDP and Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is an FDP man.

Genscher has used the issue to boost his own and his party's image. The FDP was adept at polishing its image by pushing "liberal legal and interior policies".

But there is now less mileage in that so Genscher has turned to "peacekeeping via disarmament". It has worked. The FDP did well in the general election and gained votes in state elections last month.

The possibility of gaining one or two additional percentage points during the election by promoting this new image was apparently given priority over any misgivings about a foreign policy line which could lead to a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe and thus unavoidably undermine Nato's strategy of flexible response.

Nevertheless, regardless of the arguments which could be brought to bear against this policy it is at least unambiguous. Voters know what to expect.

The same cannot be said of the CDU/CSU.

Every possible position, ranging from the rejection of the "single" zero solution (for medium-range missiles with a range of over 1,000 kilometres) to open support for nuclear disarmament for short-range missiles too, have been supported at some stage by a CDU/CSU politician.

The attempt by Bonn Defence Minister, Manfred Wörner, and the heads of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party to commit the party to a common stance (yes to the single zero option, but no to any other additional zero which might lead towards an unwanted "denuclearisation") also failed.

For months Washington, London and Paris stated that they would heed the German voice when the decision has to be taken over how to continue disarmament policy — beyond the single zero solution.

The idea that Bonn would have to coordinate its decision with its allies was undoubtedly correct.

However, such consultations can only be fruitful if they begin with a clear concept.

Paris and London could only infer from the babble of voices in the Federal Republic that clarity was not to be expected from Bonn and that it would be better to make self-interest the guiding principle.

Bonn has missed an opportunity to ensure that its interests are fully articulated in the alliance.

In the meantime, the Western Europeans have again turned to Washington.

At the latest since Secretary of State George Shultz visited Moscow it has become clear that Washington supports, at least in principle, a double-zero solution.

During the *Land* elections in Rhineland-Palatinate and Hamburg the CDU paid the price at home for foreign policy confusion.

After offering the electorate a policy line with a clear orientation the CDU also seems to have cast its security policy reservations to the wind.

The CDU business manager, Heiner Geissler, and its deputy national chairman, Lothar Späth, who is also Premier of Baden-Württemberg, have now called upon the CDU to fall in with the line Genscher is pursuing.

The Chancellor can only exercise his *Richtlinienkompetenz*, the exlusive right of the West German Chancellor to determine the general lines of government

Frankfurter Allgemeine

policy, if he has a means at his disposal of making his partner see sense.

In the final analysis, this can only be the threat to seek a new coalition partner.

Yet even if this is not possible the fact that a Chancellor only assumes the role of moderator rather than leader is interpreted as a sign of political weakness.

The relationship between domestic policy and foreign policy is also interesting.

It would be naive in a democracy based on party-political representation to demand that foreign policy should be pursued regardless of domestic policy constraints.

What use is the best foreign policy concept if it lacks the backing of the voters and cannot be translated into action?

The history of the Federal Republic of Germany also reveals that a government has to push through its foreign policy against a large section of public opinion as well as against parliamentary opposition.

Rearmament in the 1950s and the missile deployment issue which led to the collapse of the SPD-FDP coalition

Continued on page 5

Government hit from within in missiles debate

The conservative union of CDU and CSU came under fire from within its own ranks as well as outside in a brief Bundestag debate on missiles.

The CDU business manager, Heiner Geissler, without naming names, criticised colleagues who he said were creating the impression that the party was "an armaments party" because of their attitudes towards disarmament proposals.

Geissler said if this happened again, the party could lose votes in *Land* elections in Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen in September.

There was also, more predictably, criticism of the government from the Opposition benches. The SPD's leader in the Bundestag, Hans-Jochen Vogel, described Franz Josef Strauss and Alfred Dregger as "notorious troublemakers."

Geissler's fear of losing *Land* election votes might be unfounded. In all probability the missiles will no longer be an issue by September and the polls will probably be fought on economic policies.

The unrest among farmers and winegrowers in Rhineland-Palatinate gave a rough idea of what can be expected.

The short Bundestag missiles debate showed that the CDU/CSU and the FDP are gradually ironing out their differences.

Between back-slapping and impatience the western allies assure the Federal Republic in its role of "front-line state" that it will have the final say.

Without any explicit linkages the aim is a reduction of military superiorities in all arms categories.

The closing of ranks in the Bonn coalition will be followed by greater harmony in the alliance. Chancellor Kohl does not want to and will not drift into a position of isolation.

The FDP is doing best out of all this. Geissler didn't criticise it even though it won votes from the CDU in both the Hamburg and Rhineland-Palatinate state elections last month.

The fact that in Hamburg the FDP is entering an alliance with the Social Democrats is reason enough for a break-up of the Bonn coalition, but Geissler thinks that the coalition is a longer-term project that shouldn't be put in jeopardy by the maverick Hamburg move.

Once the missiles question has been cleared up, Geissler feels, relations will improve.

But the CDU will have to work on a new strategy if voters keep on moving over to the FDP.

Geissler does not feel that the right-wing of the electorate is a promising hunting ground. He believes elections are won and lost in the middle ground.

The Republican Party, which is more right-wing than the CSU and which did well in the Bavarian state election, is also operating in Schleswig-Holstein.

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss takes it seriously and is not willing to let it monopolise nationalist sentiment. The gap between Strauss and Geissler shows the extent of the problems within the CDU/CSU.

In a campaign which concentrates on economic problems the FDP has less to worry about than the CDU.

The FDP appeals to a middle-class section of the electorate, not to the "ordinary folk". As a people's party, the CDU would be harder hit by economic deterioration than the Liberals.

In Schleswig-Holstein, however, the FDP has yet to obtain the five per cent of the vote needed to get into the *Landtag*.

It can only achieve this if the CDU, which holds power with a narrow majority in Schleswig-Holstein, loses a considerable number of votes.

Geissler's forecast that a misguided disarmament discussion could cost his party votes in Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen tends to ignore new election issues.

In Schleswig-Holstein, a state in which Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg is also chairman of the CDU, the issues will be jobs, farmers' protests and shipbuilding rather than missiles.

The promised reduction of subsidies is making no progress. Debts are piling up.

It will be an exciting election campaign, in which austerity-oriented Stoltenberg may be tempted to improve his chances with the help of election presents — in line with established custom.

Hermann Eich

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 23 May 1987)

Divided branch gives new man vote of support

Bonn Employment Minister Norbert Blüm received a huge vote of confidence when he was elected chairman of the troubled North Rhine-Westphalia branch of the Christian Democrats, the biggest *Land* branch in the country.

More than 95 per cent of the delegates voted for him at an extraordinary party congress in Essen.

Blüm was brought in to unite the local party, something that his predecessor, Kurt Biedenkopf, and his deputy, Dieter Pützhofen, could not do. Now both have gone. Blüm has a new business manager, Helmut Linssen, and a new regional party executive.

They can now begin to get to grips with the problems which have been hanging over the CDU in this *Land* for many months.

Blüm did not indicate what his main intentions are as chairman. He simply called upon the party to stand together and demonstrate loyalty, a minimum requirement for the man from Bonn who is sacrificing so much to help fill the breach in Düsseldorf. Linssen also faces a Sisyphean task following the bitter experiences of recent months.

Professor Biedenkopf was visibly dejected, but bid an honourable farewell by refraining from listing the unpleasant details of the dispute.

Delegates have had enough of it and would not have taken lightly to any unnecessary washing of dirty linen in public.

So in his last speech as party chairman, Biedenkopf kept to things he is good at. He spoke on several topics including an analysis of society and a critical appraisal of the future.

For those who listened between the lines the master of rhetoric had plenty of criticism for Chancellor Kohl's policies.

His theses on unemployment, for example, almost tallied with the scolding of the Bonn government by the German Trade Union Federation (DGB).

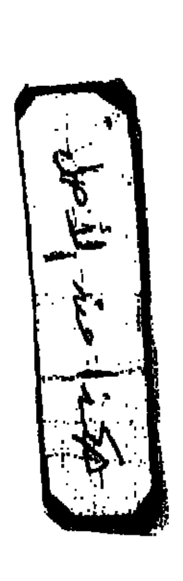
Biedenkopf, whose appointment as business manager of the federal CDU by Helmut Kohl was the start to a brilliant career, told his fellow delegates that he was no longer running as candidate at the express will of Helmut Kohl and Heiner Geissler.

His speech revealed disappointment and embitterment. Apart from two women delegates, the party tried to avoid summoning up the ghosts of the past.

It must now look to the future. Essen was just the first step out of marshy ground. Blüm has a lot of work ahead of him.

Joachim Sobotta

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 23 May 1987)



■ PEOPLE

A story of two nations, two ambassadors and two styles

The US and Soviet ambassadors to Bonn, Richard Burt and Yuli Kvitsinsky, have only recently got to know each other better after nearly a year of brief encounters at diplomatic functions.

Mr Burt, who has been in Bonn longer, invited Mr Kvitsinsky down from Victorshöhe to the US embassy by the Rhine for dinner.

The visit is soon to be returned. The *two men have been taking their time*, just like their superiors in Washington and Moscow, but they are making closer contact.

They could hardly differ more strikingly as individuals. Mr Burt is tall and slim, which he underlines by dressing well, and clearly enjoys public appearances, especially glamorous social ones.

Mr Kvitsinsky is short and squat. If appearance is any guide he is sound and

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

reliable rather than exquisite in his tastes.

He tends to shun the limelight rather than seek it, and as for the full glare of publicity, he seems decidedly reluctant to step forward.

Impressions may be deceptive but Mr Burt looks as though he finds it hard to suppress a smile when he sees Mr Kvitsinsky in full uniform at a major diplomatic occasion.

Germans too may tend to feel that gala uniforms as worn by Soviet diplomats make them look like funeral directors in full attire.

Yet the two men have a great deal in common. They are both quick on the uptake and don't always have the discipline to weigh their words before saying them.

Both occasionally go on the rhetorical attack or to indulge in an impromptu flight of repartee when restraint might be more appropriate.

Both have made breathtaking progress in their careers and are top experts *on arms control, especially in the strategic context*.

Both find it hard to conceal the fact that they represent superpowers beside which all others are a lesser breed.

Yet both have now gone to some lengths to promote understanding for their host countries back home.

Mr Burt and Mr Kvitsinsky may both at times have caused German annoyance with their attitudes as great power representatives.

Frequent mention was made of the term "high commissioners", but those days now seem to belong to a dim and distant past. That is a lesson both have learnt.

Referring to the activity of the US ambassador in the Federal Republic an American news magazine recently wondered whether Mr Burt might possibly have "gone native" in Germany. He had, after all, even taken Secretary of State Shultz to task.

Serenely and without the slightest trace of annoyance Mr Burt handed round the magazine article on board the plane that took him and Foreign Minister Genscher to Washington for consultations and back.

Everyone was appreciative; no-one felt the tenor of the article was in any way malicious.

Should similar suspicions of Mr Kvitsinsky have been voiced in the Soviet Union they have yet to be aired by the *media*. Yet the Soviet ambassador in Bonn has outlined pleasing prospects for German-Soviet relations.

He did so in writing at a time when official opinion in Moscow was still most upset by Chancellor Kohl's comparison, in a *Newsweek* interview, of Gorbachov and Goebbels.

Mr Kvitsinsky makes no bones about his intention of helping bilateral ties to make headway.

Richard Burt was appointed ambassador without diplomatic experience, as is frequently possible in the United States.

After university he progressed to become, in the mid-1970s, deputy director of the highly-regarded London Institute of Strategic Studies, then switched to the *New York Times*, where he was the staff armaments expert.

Few were surprised when he moved from the *New York Times* to the State Department, where he was appointed head of the department in charge of political and military affairs.

At the State Department he took over, as a Republican and leading expert in his field, from an equally distinguished Democrat who had worked for the *Washington Post*.

But unlike his predecessor Mr Burt soon gained promotion to under-secretary at the age of 35.

What then prompted him to apply for the Bonn ambassadorship in succession to the aged Arthur Burns? Was it curiosity to learn more about the Federal Republic as a cornerstone of the North Atlantic pact on the borderline between East and West? Or was he tired of a grinding government job in Washington?

Did he no longer feel like crossing swords with the other Richard in the Reagan administration, Richard Perle at the Pentagon, or was he keen on a better-paid job with a view to starting a *family?*

Whatever the reason, Mr Burt arrived in Bonn to take over as ambassador in summer 1985 aged 38. He was the youngest US ambassador ever to serve at this key posting.

Yuli Kvitsinsky's road to Bonn was in contrast preordained. He learnt German as a child from neighbours in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia.

After studying at the Institute of International Relations in Moscow he was sent as an interpreter to the Soviet embassy in East Berlin in 1959.

Six years later he returned to Moscow, which in the Soviet foreign service almost invariably means returning to the third European department at the Foreign Ministry, the department in charge of relations with German-speaking countries.

So it was only logical for him to be attached to the Soviet delegation that negotiated the Four-Power Agreement on Berlin.

Western diplomats came to know him better at the Four-Power talks as a diplomat equally well versed in the language and in legal and political affairs.

They found him shrewd and astute, imaginative and well briefed on the minutest details of German affairs.

It was far more in keeping with his career for him to be sent to Bonn as envoy in 1978 than to be transferred three years later to Geneva, where he negotiated with the United States on intermediate-range nuclear arms *limitation*.

One explanation may be that Foreign Minister Gromyko recalled his negotiating skill — although he then failed to make full use of it.

The "walk in the woods" formula tentatively agreed with chief US delegate Paul Nitze was rejected both in Moscow and in Washington.

Mr Kvitsinsky was *recalled from* Geneva and sent back to Bonn as ambassador. Mr Burt wanted to come to Bonn; Mr Kvitsinsky was ordered to do so. Like his mentor, Mr Gromyko, he is keenly aware of Moscow's great power status.

After his *transfer from talks with the* Americans to day-to-day diplomatic ties with the Germans this imperial attitude assumed the proportion of sheer arrogance.

In an interview with a popular German newspaper, for instance, he criticised the Federal government. *At a public* appearance he criticised *the* policy pursued by the West.

As a guest at a specialist gathering on security affairs he indulged in crude polemics, barefacedly manipulating facts and figures.

It took a number of strong hints from the Bonn Foreign Office to *remind him* of diplomatic proprieties *and persuade* him to exercise restraint.

He regularly shows signs of ridicule and irony, with occasional *sarcasm and* cynicism, even if they are only in the glint in his eyes behind glasses with tinted lenses.

But the political line pursued by his Party leader now predominates in determining his behaviour. He advocates and works for better relations and, in keeping with the Soviet slogan, "glasnost," he has made the Soviet embassy opener and more accessible.

That being said, neither he nor his staff are anywhere near as communicative or unconventionally easy to get on with as the Americans in general and Mr Burt in particular.

As US ambassador Mr Burt has played with a rock group; the idea of Mr Kvitsinsky doing anything of the kind is absolutely inconceivable. But he is equally unlikely to attend Communist

Continued on page 7



The glamorous meets the reliable . . . ambassadors Burt (*left*) and Kvitsinsky. (Photo: dpa)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Weakened peace movement loses capacity to jam the streets with protesters

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Millions took to the streets at the beginning of the 1980s in protest against the planned deployment of US missiles in West Germany.

The protests come to mind because of the dispute now over disarmament as the Bonn government and the coalition parties muddle their way leisurely through the missiles maze and squabble over zeros and double-zeros.

This time there is no wave of protest to push them one way or the other. But back in summer 1981, autumn 1982 and 1983, the peace movement had little trouble mobilising huge numbers of people to take to the streets in protest at the Nato missiles decision.

An extraparliamentary lobby emerged which brought Helmut Schmidt's, and then Helmut Kohl's, government under pressure, triggering what many referred to as a "crisis of legitimation".

The fact that Chancellor Kohl employed the catchy slogan *Frieden schaffen mit weniger Waffen* (Create Peace through Fewer Weapons) in 1982 reflected how seriously the government took the protests.

The fading cry of extraparliamentary opposition at a time when a reduction in the number of missiles seems a clear possibility for the first time in decades bears testimony to the political and social changes in Germany.

Although the peace movement has called upon its supporters to take part in blockades of missile depots in the Hunsrück region, and a central demonstration is planned in Bonn on 13 June, the momentum and drive of those years have vanished. There are many reasons.

The peace movement was deeply shaken in 1983 when, despite all the protest, the government did push through missile deployment.

This decision forced the movement, which has an extremely complex internal structure and consists of many social movements, to abandon its more ambitious goals.

The disappointment of many protesters and resignation at their failure to achieve their overriding objective led to rapid and silent disintegration. The peace movement has not recovered. day.

As opposed to the early 1980s, the demands of the peace movement are now incorporated in party manifestos. Both the SPD and Greens call for a reduction of missiles.

The former extraparliamentary opposition against the arms race, therefore, has been "parliamentarised" to the undoubted detriment of the peace movement.

Even in the government camp there is a growing number of zero-solution supporters. The FDP and Bonn Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, are part of it.

During a recent peace movement conference in Cologne there was talk of a "Genscherisation" of politics in this field.

This expression denotes the fear that the majority of the West German population apparently prefer flexible, Genscher-style diplomacy to protests in the streets.

Consequently, the peace movement is slowly but surely being hollowed out by the very institution which was originally the main butt of its criticism: the Bonn government.

Finally, the disarmament proposals of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov have put the cat among the peace movement pigeons — particularly the influential and active pro-Communist faction.

The latter's traditional fixation on the USA and President Reagan in the struggle for disarmament had to be revised somewhat after Gorbachov's initiatives at least indirectly admitted that Soviet missiles are not of a purely defensive nature.

Many organisations in the peace movement, whose steering committee has 29 members and two permanent observers, are trying to cover up their uncertainty by expressing doubts about the double-zero solution.

Now that this step towards disarmament is within reach they are demanding total disarmament.

Other sections of the movement, above all the anarcho-autonomous groups, seek to forge links with the anti-nuclear movement, whose militant action focuses on the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Wackersdorf.

So, is there nothing left for the peace movement? The movement shares responsibility for breaking down security policy fronts in the Federal Republic and making disarmament an issue for conservative governments too.

The movement, however, then "spread out" and disintegrated into thousands of separate initiatives and, above all religious (mainly Protestant), groups.

These groups discuss the links between the arms race in highly industrialised societies and poverty in the Third World.

A new political culture has evolved which was inconceivable a few years ago. The permanent apartheid discussion is just one example.

Although the impact of the peace movement may not be as visible as it was three or four years ago it has left a more than discernible mark on the Federal Republic of Germany.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 26 May 1987)

Continued from page 3

government in 1982 are just two exemplary cases.

The fate of foreign policy is much more significant for Germans than for other nations.

The clash between East and West has cemented the division of Germany.

The security and stability of the Federal Republic of Germany depend on the country's integration in the free western world.

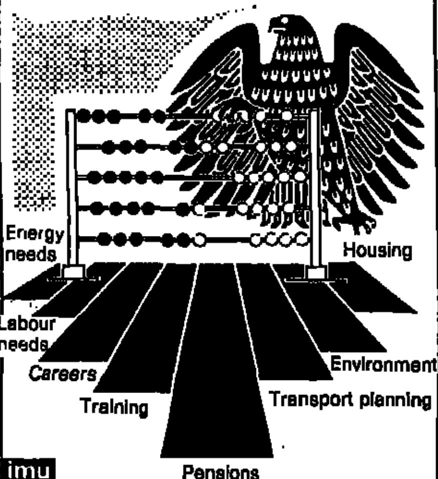
Our prosperity is inconceivable without the politico-economic unification of Europe.

If fundamental foreign policy decisions are made contingent upon the deliberations of party-political tactics there is reason to be concerned about the our country's future.

Günther Nonnenmacher

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 May 1987)

Census reveals lack of trust in institution of government



Many people would find it difficult to agree with Hegel that the state is the "realisation of the moral idea".

Politicians also make it difficult for us to share the philosopher's conviction that the state is an "in-itself-reasonable" institution.

Yet is our state so immoral or unreasonable that its citizens need keep a deeply mistrustful eye on its activities?

What indication is there that the second German republic, which was built on the ruins of the Third Reich and is the result of great efforts for freedom and human dignity, has succumbed to the temptation of power or could inflict the harm latent in all forms of power?

Whatever the census may bring, one thing is already obvious: the relationship between many West Germans and their state is strained.

Far from feeling love for the Federal Republic (for which, as former Bonn President, Gustav Heinemann, once remarked, there are more suitable objects) these citizens are developing a kind of partisan mentality towards the the state.

Laws are checked as if by Geiger counter to find their weak points, and legal action taken with the sole aim of clogging up the wheels of court procedure.

Lawyers, who could be described as "administrators of justice", regard it as their duty to describe how trouble-prone the census is.

This apparently prompts some people to try and bring about these difficulties so as to embarrass the state.

As if the state were some kind of alien and evil opponent, efforts are made to burden it with more time-consuming work and additional costs.

Does our state deserve such mistrust, and how much mistrust can it take? The streamlined attacks on the boycott movement against the census by certain politicians are lamentable proof of intellectual ignorance and complacency.

Anyone who equates what is really a cat-and-mouse game vis-à-vis the state with terrorism and fascism or who can only view the mistrust against the census as an expression of a Communist infection should be described as someone who refuses to think. .....

There are several reasons why citizens should be sceptical towards the state.

Those politicians who emphasise the constitutionality of the new census law also said the same about the old one — and they were wrong. This was unambiguously confirmed by the Federal Constitutional Court.

The methods used to gather census information, i.e. the use of computers, the *registration* lists, the *classification* of individuals, households, places of work and movement, are reminiscent of the methods originally employed to track down criminals and terrorists.

This makes it all the more difficult to make the objective benefit of the census seem plausible.

Reference to the need for government planning, e.g. in the transport sector, is much too abstract and often disprovable in specific instances.

Some roads in the Federal Republic of Germany, for example, are so congested that only a deaf and blind government could ignore the problems facing the despairing wayside residents. Yet the government does ignore them.

Is a census needed to change this state of affairs?

Can a census to eliminate the subsidisation problem?

Can a census prevent poor hospital or urban development planning?

Can a census ensure a sound financial basis for the social security system?

Will a census introduce greater rationality to politics?

All this remains to be seen.

Despite continuing scepticism, which cannot be eliminated by the assuring words of Bonn president Richard von Weizsäcker, there are nevertheless special and general reasons to accept the census.

Although its benefit is not certain it is very unlikely to have an adverse effect on individual citizens.

The state will not find out anything it is not allowed to, and, in all probability, very little about what is does not already know.

Bearing this in mind, and in view of the fact that the various branches of the insurance sector have incomparably more information on individuals in its computerised data files, the fuss about anonymity does seem rather absurd.

One gains the impression that some citizens are hiding from the state as if it were a leviathan.

Admittedly, with the support of the electronic media the state today could become as dangerous as Thomas Hobbes' mythical monster. Vigilance is expedient.

The census, however, is not the occasion to turn this vigilance into mistrust.

Unjustified mistrust can weaken and destroy, making us blind to the moment when it might be more appropriate to say stop.

Werner Hill

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 24 May 1987)

■ THE WORKFORCE

Cash crisis threatens to hit unemployment aid

The Federal Labour Office, Nuremberg, expects to overspend by up to DM1bn this year on unemployment. Its budget is DM34.3bn. Next year, it says, unemployment insurance will no longer be able to meet its costs from contributions and reserves.

Ursula Engelen-Kefer, vice-president of the Federal Labour Office, Nuremberg, and a member of the SPD's national executive, says her agency, which runs the country's labour exchanges, has reached the end of its tether, both financial and manpower.

As none of the main participants in the unemployment insurance scheme were prepared to pay higher contributions toward combating unemployment, the emphasis would have to be on concentrating vocational training and job creation activities on problem groups and regions.

Frau Engelen-Kefer, who jointly with Anke Fuchs of the SPD presidium commented on labour market trends in the Federal Republic at a press conference in the SPD's central office in Bonn, said economic trends over the past three years had failed to make any great impression on unemployment.

About one third of the new jobs created were the result of extra labour market and welfare measures and of shorter working weeks and earlier retirement.

Expansion of job creation programmes had reduced by between 360,000 and 380,000 a year the number of people out of work.

This year the Federal Labour Office would be spending over DM9bn on vocational training and job creation schemes.

These activities were universally welcomed, especially the vocational training schemes, but they were so popular that they were costing the agency more than it had budgeted for.

Given that there has been an economic downturn since last autumn, Frau Engelen-Kefer expects the Nuremberg agency to pay out more in unemployment benefit and short-time bonuses than it had expected this year.

A further problem was that everyone expected it to help ease the burden of the structural crises in mining, steel and shipbuilding and in areas of high unemployment.

The financial strain on the agency's resources increased as a result, yet neither employers nor employees were prepared to pay higher contributions to enable it to extend the range and scope of its activities.

This being so, all the agency could do was consolidate its labour market activities at a high level, including qualitative improvement and greater concentration on problem groups.

Vocational training and job creation schemes could never take the place of flanking measures to create and safeguard jobs with a future, she said.

What now mattered was to persuade private and public-sector employers to invest more time and money in job qualification measures launched by unemployment insurance contributors and labour exchanges.

Anke Fuchs said the Federal Labour Office was no longer in a position to offset Federal government economic

Süddeutsche Zeitung

and financial policies she felt were inadequate.

Financial resources had been exhausted, leaving only the option of a qualitative improvement in further training and retraining schemes.

Greater store must be set by training schemes at work, where employers had in recent years tended to leave too much to the labour exchanges.

Social Democratic employment policy proposals, Frau Fuchs said, had gained in relevance in the wake of latest labour market trends.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 26 May 1987)

Applicants have improved qualifications

Labour force qualifications have improved a lot over the past few years. At the beginning of last year nearly four out of five employed persons had completed job training or qualified in a trade or profession.

Between 1979 and 1986 the percentage increased from 72 to 79, according to the initial findings of a survey jointly conducted by labour market research institutes.

More than 17 million of the nation's 22 million employed now have some sort of qualification. The Federal Vocational Training Institute, Berlin, attributes the increase to more vocational training at work. In the period reviewed the proportion of people trained at work (as, say, apprentices) increased from 60 to 67 per cent.

This expansion in training provision at work was largely due to small firms, the Berlin institute says in a press release.

It feels the higher proportion of trainees and trained men (and women) is due to extra efforts by employers and vocational training colleges to handle the "baby boom."

In the late 1970s and early 1980s the "baby boom" of the early 1960s left school. Employers and the authorities made special efforts to find jobs and provide job training for these school leavers.

The survey's findings are based on 26,500 interviews with a cross-section of working people at the end of 1985.

It found that nearly one employed person in four who has completed job training promptly left the firm he (or she) trained at. The employer didn't hire them after they had served their apprenticeship.

Another one in eight quit during the first year after training.

In the artisan and service trades, especially in small firms, the proportion of trainees who leave (or are forced to leave) on completing training is high.

This problem has increased. The Berlin institute attributes this to firms training more staff than they need in response to the heavy demand for apprenticeships.

Those who leave the firm they trained at, voluntarily or involuntarily, often either have to work in another trade or job or to sign on for unemployment benefit.

Those who switch industries often have to learn an entirely new trade, which to begin with reduces the value of the earlier job training.

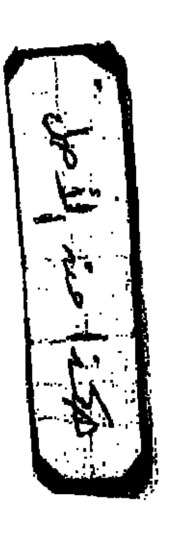
Not all trades are equally affected. Those who have learnt a trade in mechanical or electrical engineering or office work and administration can usually put what they have learnt to some use in a new job. But they are much less likely to switch trades.

That cannot be said of farmers and miners, food trades and tailors, hairdressers, doctors' and dentists' clerks and so on.

Qualified staff in these categories can put what they have learnt to good use in another job in the trade or profession they trained in, but that doesn't help them much if they have to find another job altogether.

The institute says there is a trend toward more people who have learnt such inflexible trades changing careers.

(Handelsblatt, Dusseldorf, 14 May 1987)



The author, Professor Gerhard Fels, Director of the institute for the German economy (IW) in Cologne, wrote this article for *Die Welt*.

What high labour costs mean for an industrialised society

International statistics show the Federal Republic of Germany to have had the world's second-highest labour costs last year. Only in Switzerland were costs higher.

The average hourly wage in manufacturing industry was DM31.42. In major competing countries labour costs are substantially lower.

In the United States they are over two marks, in Japan six marks, in Italy and France eight and nine marks and in Britain nearly DM14 lower.

Exchange rates naturally play a key role in international comparisons of labour costs. The cost of labour affects both employment levels and trends within an economy.

The continued high level of unemployment in the Federal Republic shows that labour costs still need adjusting.

Wage talks would do the unemployed a good turn if agreement were reached on minimum wages below the average level.

The necessary wage differentiation would then take place automatically via wage drift trends.

High wages have a less damaging effect on employment the more flexibly employers can react to cyclical or structural downturns by adjusting labour costs.

Legal and wage agreement safeguards prevent them from doing so in the Federal Republic. Companies are virtually unable to reduce wage bills by across-the-board wage cuts.

Wages and most supplementary costs are fixed costs as far as companies are concerned. So when demand declines, layoffs are the only option (apart, that is, from short time).

Redundancies can be extremely difficult, not to say expensive, given labour law and wage agreement provisions.

Assuming redundancies are not ruled out entirely by special arrangements, companies of any size must negotiate redundancy agreement when layoffs exceed a certain percentage of their payroll.

Redundancy packages and severance pay can be very expensive, seriously handicapping a company's further development.

An additional burden is imposed by the time employers and works councils

DIE WELT

take to negotiate settlements of this kind.

About 80 days elapse between the start of negotiations and the binding ruling of a labour tribunal arbitrator, so it is hardly surprising to learn that one firm in four is unable to go ahead with redundancies as planned.

They either reduce the number of redundancies initially planned or are forced to stagger or delay their plans.

The financial repercussions of redundancy arrangements — and the delays in reaching agreement — impose a heavy burden on a company's economic prospects.

The same is true of labour tribunal rulings and awards in connection with individual dismissals.

Legislation is needed to enable companies to react more flexibly in times of economic and structural decline and falling demand.

In specified economic conditions redundancy agreements ought not to be mandatory.

Action is also called for to limit the increase in supplementary wage costs — extra costs arising from legal provisions, wage agreements and in-house arrangements.

Last year these supplementary costs were a further 83.1 per cent over and above wages and salaries before tax. They fall little short of a "second" salary.

Employers' social security contributions account for the lion's share: 22.4 per cent.

That shows what an influence government policies, such as health and pensions, can have on wage and labour costs.

Health and pensions policies must in future be aimed more than in the past at preventing any further increase in supplementary wage bills.

High supplementary costs boost the "black" or parallel economy, in which a straight wage is paid, with no extras.

Small and medium-sized firms are the main losers when illegal employment increases. It is particularly rife in the trades and the construction industry, where small firms are the rule.

So economic policies geared to forestall further increases in supplementary wage costs are policies from which the middle class, as small-and medium-scale employers, will tend to benefit.

Gerhard Fels

(Die Welt, Bonn, 21 May 1987)

■ FINANCE

The Chinese present their capitalist credentials

Frankfurter Rundschau

Many foreign bankers will have cast envious glances at the Frankfurt Interconti, where the reception to mark the official opening of the Bank of China's Frankfurt representative office was better attended than their own had been.

Fine-sounding names, names to conjure with, graced the visitors' book. Leading bankers and executives, Bundesbank officials and representatives of the political parties were all there.

They were anxious not to miss the opportunity of paying their respects to the Chinese and, above all, to China's newly rekindled inclination toward capitalist-style manners.

Somewhat to the surprise of some of his fellow-bankers, even grand old man Hermann Josef Abs came in person to demonstrate the Deutsche Bank's interest in its Chinese opposite numbers.

Politeness and curiosity alone are not enough to account for the spellbinding powers of attraction the Chinese seem to wield everywhere.

The way they go about their work is what comes as such a surprise. Ten years ago everyone would surely have laughed out of court any idea of a bank's chief executive from the model country of root-and-branch communism calling for cooperation in a speech to representatives of Western financial capitalism.

A Chinese ambassador openly pleading the cause of local authority twinning and urging Frankfurt to twin with Canton would likewise have been barely conceivable a decade ago.

In a fairly short time that has all changed fundamentally. Politely, unobtrusively, the Chinese have firmly established themselves in the West.

Their first representative office in Frankfurt is merely a first crowning achievement of activity previously undertaken strictly behind the scenes.

The pomp with which they were welcomed to Frankfurt serves to explain their objective. They have long been preparing to use Frankfurt as the turntable and linchpin of Chinese trade with Europe.

"We all come via Frankfurt," said the Chinese ambassador, referring both to Frankfurt international airport and to the city's importance for foreigners.

Frankfurt has every reason to be delighted; it can expect to profit handsomely from the proceeds of China trade. The city is unperturbed that China set up its first trade centre in Hamburg just over two years ago.

Quietly but busily the Chinese are said to have expanded "over night" in Frankfurt. Five years ago CAAC, the Chinese airline, was on its own in Frankfurt. Now 17 Chinese enterprises are represented in the city, to be joined this year by a further three.

The Bank of China's main tasks will thus be to establish local contacts, to promote joint ventures and, above all, to keep its eyes open in a major European banking centre and see for itself how financial transactions are conducted under capitalism.

The bank itself has already gained a certain amount of experience in dealing with the erstwhile class enemy. Unlike the central bank, the People's Bank of China, it concentrates on foreign trade and has offices in London, Paris and Luxembourg as well as Frankfurt.

Investment is China's overriding consideration, and Chinese students, who were sent to Europe in Mao Tse-tung's days to learn Western know-how, are of great importance.

As ambassadors of their country they, in common with Chinese career diplomats, surprise and shame their hosts with their command of the language, their first-rate knowledge about country and people and on their history and culture.

Ambassador Guo Fengmin, for instance, can recite Goethe with a facility that would shame many a student of German literature.

Small wonder that German businessmen are keen to make contact with China and to benefit from China's interest in them.

Trade ties may still be in their early days, but German experts set great store by China badly needing to modernise.

Exports to China may not have increased as steeply in 1986 as in previous years, but they totalled well over DM6bn, or roughly the same as German exports to Yugoslavia or Finland.

Imports from China, although amounting to only about one third of the value of exports, roughly correspond to the level of imports from, say, Ireland or Portugal.

"The Chinese still have a lot to learn," one banker said at the Interconti reception. He was keen to stem the tide of euphoria apparent among many guests.

Yet who knows? Maybe their success will lie in having learnt from the mistakes others have made in Germany.

Christine Skowronowski

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 May 1987)

Mark's exchange rate is bank's big worry

The Bundesbank is giving priority to keeping the mark's exchange rate stable, says the bank's chief executive, Karl Otto Pöhl.

He says that keeping the domestic purchasing power of the mark stable despite a rapid increase in the amount of money in circulation is another aim, but the exchange rate is more important because Germany's economy is so closely interlinked with world markets.

The central bank's efforts in both directions are causing it to walk a policy tight-rope. The usually optimistic Herr Pöhl admits that the German economy is not in the best of condition.

He probably feels however, that it will at least partly recover in the second quarter from its first-quarter decline. But what happens now will depend to a crucial extent on whether another mark revaluation can be prevented.

The Bundesbank will not be defending to the hilt any specific mark-dollar exchange rate. That would be impossible to do if it meant going against market trends simply because of the enormous amount of money that changes hands daily in foreign exchange markets.

Recent moves by the Bundesbank to cut interest rates were aimed at stabilising the exchange rate.

Whether this strategy succeeds will naturally depend to a large extent on whether the Americans play ball by helping to stabilise the dollar.

Herr Pöhl feels the United States has realised the risks any further decline of the dollar might entail for everyone.

Keen though the Bundesbank may be, on cyclical grounds, to stabilise the deutschemark's external value, Frankfurt officials have no intention of losing sight of domestic price stability.

Given the high degree of "imported price stability," there is felt to be little danger of inflation in the foreseeable future even though a number of "monetary purists" might disagree.

Peter Olsen

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 20 May 1987)

Continued from page 4

Party brass band meetings. When the Soviet ambassador attends gatherings arranged by the German Communist Party he stands much more aloof than he does in dealings with their arch-enemies the big bourgeois capitalists.

Mr Burt can also keep his distance where he feels it is appropriate to do so, but he draws the line far less narrowly.

He is clearly keen to make contact with and understand the whole gamut of German society and to gain an insight into how Germans feel and think.

He is naturally an ambassador too — in the wider sense of the term. He gives lectures and attends platform debates — so much so that one wonders how he finds the time.

He has closely followed election campaigns and is given to inviting anyone he feels might be interesting to dine with him.

So he has meanwhile gained a more in-depth view of Germany and developed a substantial degree of tact and delicacy in dealings with his host country.

Like Mr Kvitsinsky, he used to criticise Bonn policies and politicians; he now champions the cause of understanding. On both sides of the Atlantic he tirelessly advocates partnership between the two countries over and above a mere military pact. Self-assured himself, he far prefers brash German self-confidence to reluctant self-doubt.

He is not enthusiastic about criticism but takes it at face value and certainly doesn't promptly interpret it as anti-Americanism.

That surely is an important distinction between Yuli Kvitsinsky and Richard Burt.

The Soviet ambassador seems to see the Federal Republic as a partner that would do well to remember its subordinate role in relation to the world powers.

This attitude is definitely encouraged by a latent sense of Russian inferiority.

The US ambassador prefers to see the Germans as a self-assured partner of the United States, insisting on its rights accruing from the relationship just as it feels bound by the obligations arising from it.

This attitude is strictly in accordance with the US views on how to get on with each other in American society.

Dietrich Möller

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 23 May 1987)

■ FINANCE

Competition produces energy-efficient household electrical appliances

Although low crude oil prices now mean that energy-saving measures are not quite as urgent as they were in the oil-crisis year, they nevertheless still do play a certain part in commerce. Whole sectors of industry now use energy-saving equipment.

The technical possibilities of energy-saving are far from exhausted. A good example of this is electrical home appliances.

One of the largest manufacturers of home appliances, Bosch-Siemens-Hausgeräte (BSHG) of Munich, report in detail on energy-saving measures.

BSHG chairman Helmut Plettner said that home appliances used up 3.7 per cent of prime energy supplies, a relatively small amount, but saving energy in electrical equipment for the home was of great importance.

Home appliances used up 29 per cent of electrical power production — the main consumer, of course, being industry with 50 per cent.

Forty-four per cent of the electrical power used for home appliances is consumed by refrigerators and deep-freezes, dishwashers and washing machines.

Small electrically-powered units account for 11 per cent of consumption and water heaters for 13 per cent. Electrical central heating accounts for 21 per cent of power used.

Manufacturers of electrical home appliances promised the Economic Affairs Ministry in 1980 that within eight years the industry would reduce power consumption in electric cookers by 3 per cent and by 20 per cent for refrigerators and freezers.

With obvious satisfaction Plettner re-

Frankfurter Allgemeine

ports that these savings and more have been achieved.

The most saving has been made in deep-freezes — 36.8 per cent: then dishwashers with 28.9 per cent, refrigerators 21.5 per cent, washing machines with 17.6 pe cent and electric cookers with 15.7 per cent.

On average the savings achieved are 21.3 per cent of electricity consumption.

Plettner emphasised that these satisfactory results could only be achieved by well-functioning competitiveness in the industry and the application of technical measures, which had allowed the industry to make great strides in energy economies.

Reducing the water used in dishwashers and washing machines was one of the most important technical measures achieved. Others were improved insulation in cookers, refrigerators and freezers.

Plettner said that these results would not have been achieved for certain if the state had imposed energy-saving regulations, as was suggested should be done in many serious discussions during the 1960s.

Regulations of this kind would have meant that progress would have been made at the rate imposed by the slowest competing manufacturer, clearly below the average rate of progress and well below that achieved in individual cases.

Expanding on what Plettner implied it is true to say that in such cases private initiatives produce more than state imposed rules and regulations.

Reinhold Fuhrmann, managing director of Robert Bosch Hausgeräte GmbH of Munich, said that dishwashers were a fine example of the efforts made by individual companies to save energy. His company markets its products jointly with Siemens-Electrogeräte and BSHG.

Bosch dishwashers require 59 per cent less water than similar machines needed in 1970. Today dishwashers use 38 per cent less water than washing-up by hand.

Ten years ago consumers had to pay out DM70m more for electrical power for such machines than is required for the new machines of today.

These new Bosch machines can also be operated with less washing-up liquid, less noise and in a smaller area, Fuhrmann said.

The savings rate Bosch has achieved with its appliances such as refrigerators and freezers is 22.3 per cent, one percentage point better than the average achieved by the industry as a whole in West Germany.

Last year 2.35 million dishwashers were sold in Western Europe, 630,000 of these in the Federal Republic of Germany. In the United States of America 3.92 million units were sold.

Sixty-one per cent of dishwashers produced in West Germany last year, 932,000 units, were exported. Fuhrmann claimed that BSHG had a very large share of this export business.

He is confident about the dishwasher market's future because only one in every three West German households has one.

Market saturation is up to 95 per cent for refrigerators, 92 per cent for washing machines and 78 per cent for electric cookers.

Consumers should exchange their appliances earlier than before for environmemntal protection grounds or to get economies in running them. The trade and industry complain, however, that people still hang on to their old appliances until they give up the ghost before purchasing new ones.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 May 1987)

Optimism about the market for consumer durables

The outlook for the electrical home appliances industry seems bright *despite a growth reduction, says Commerzbank.*

Manufacturers expect growth to slowed this year between three and four per cent.

The continued strength of the mark, mainly against the dollar, and weaker demand in neighbouring European countries will affects the export trade. There is bound to be a drop in business abroad this year.

Last year there was an industry increase in exports of 10 per cent but this year it is estimated the increase will only be between three and four per cent.

In view of improved wage earnings in the Federal Republic and increased consumer demand, attention will be switched to domestic demand.

In the medium and long-term the industry is cautiously optimistic. But, as Commerzbank pointed out, sales could be reduced by obvious instances of market saturation in certain sectors. Here the supply of spare parts will increasingly support the market.

On the other hand, however, the market for dishwashers, dryers and similar appliances is still far from saturated. The bank believes that the market for micro-wave grills has not yet really got going.

Producers are applying changed guidelines in the production of "white-ware," refrigerators, freezers and so on. There is more innovation and variation.

The industry has introduced guidelines into its production programme to meet the elecrtrical appliance requirements of the single-person household, the increase in the number of working wives, the eating and leisure practices of single people and families, and the sharp increase in the number of people over 50.

According to the Commerzbank, last year the private consumer was just as important for manufacturers in the electrical appliances industry as the high export demand. This domestic market has become a very active sector.

Higher incomes have favourably influenced consumers' preparedness to *purchase long-life consumer durables.*

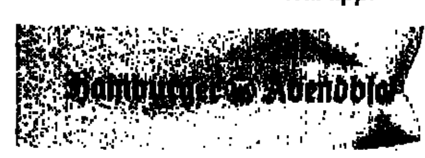
This has caused an increase in domestic sales of 2.5 per cent although prices remained stable.

There was an increase of five per cent in the sales of large electrical appliances such as refrigerators and freezers; smaller electrical home equipment increased only one per cent after very favourable market developments in 1985.

Night storage heaters did not do so well and sales last year dropped three per cent.

The electrical appliances industry expanded its production by 9.1 per cent to 12 per cent. This represents about nine per cent of production in the electrical engineering industry.

The average German household has about 20 different electrical appliances.



The industry is putting a lot of its faith in the future in technical innovation and increased attention being paid by consumers to energy-saving appliances and an increased awareness of health and environmental aspects of household appliances.

The range of appliances available to the public extends from sun-tanning appliances to "ecology equipment" such as electrically-powered drinking water purifiers and home wheat grinders.

Generally speaking the industry concentrates on small, compact appliances such as mini-hair-dryers and mouthwash units in small travelling packs.

The industry trend is towards appliances that are easy-to-use and reliable requiring few repairs, to appliances with more functions such as a coffee machine with a timer and a vacuum flask instead of a glass container, and greater security — irons with automatic switch-offs and cordless irons. Design is also playing a greater role.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 25 May 1987)

Private savings reach a record level

Personal savings increased heavily last year, says a report by the central bank, the Bundesbank.

It says DM15.5bn less was paid for private heating oil and natural gas than the year before.

Other reasons for the increased savings were higher wages and salaries, fewer unemployed and a drop in income tax along with other benefits such as cheaper imported goods.

The bank says many people did not expect the improved purchasing power. They had, therefore, not altered their consumption habits, but had given more attention to saving.

Total private savings increased last year to the record level of DM167bn, a 10 per cent increase over the previous year.

State-promoted savings schemes added another four billion marks to this last year giving a total of DM171bn (in 1985 the total was DM156bn).

Because of low interest rates investor behaviour changed markedly, so that private savings accounts and non-interest sight deposits increased in volume to DM13bn (DM5bn in the previous year).

The growth of liquid monetary holdings exceeded "all previous comparable levels and corresponded to a good third of total private savings."

There was continued interest in long-term savings as well. Life insurance profited from these favourable conditions mainly and people's increased cautious approach to life.

Other inducements to save came from employee pension schemes.

In total DM42bn (DM39bn in 1985) was placed in insurance and DM26bn (DM23bn) was placed with banks. There was again a drop in the amount placed in building societies of DM1.7bn (minus DM1.1bn in 1985).

Last year of total savings of DM171bn DM137bn was placed in financial assets — DM126bn in 1985 — and DM44bn (DM42bn) in the purchase of living accommodation.

Private borrowing accounted for DM10bn (DM12bn), so that the private savings balance was DM127bn (DM114bn).

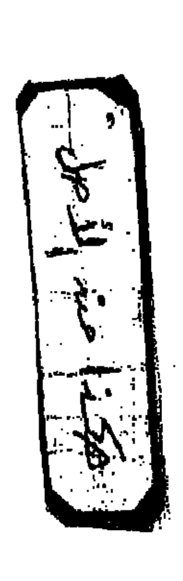
There is a levelling off this year of the increase in private and company saving — company saving was DM77bn (DM51bn).

Despite the Bundesbank's delicate handling of the economy in April there was a marked increase in the money supply.

The central bank money supply exceeded the average position in the 4th quarter of 1986 with a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7.8 per cent.

dpa/vwd

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 21 May 1987)



■ INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

Tempting bacteria to eat plastic bags

Environment was the keynote of this year's Interpack trade fair in Düsseldorf, with striking differences among the 1,887 exhibitors.

Glass, for instance, is clearly staging a comeback, with more and more people — and not just eco-freaks — buying milk in returnable bottles.

The milk bottle, which has a life expectancy equivalent to that of about 40 milk cartons or sachets, is already earning some packaging manufacturers good money.

Some consumers feel plastic is the root of all evil in modern packaging. Thirty per cent of packaging in the Federal Republic is based on synthetic materials.

The industry disagrees. It will hear nothing of wholesale condemnation of the ubiquitous plastic bag doled out to customers in stores almost everywhere.

Many critics argue that plastic bags use too much raw material and take too much energy to manufacture.

They usually forget that plastic bags save money at the other end of the garbage cycle: in the incinerator.

Large garbage incinerators need an admixture of plastic bags, which consist of over 90 per cent petroleum derivatives.

They burn like candle wax and cut costs that would otherwise arise in gas or oil to burn the waste. One manufacturer at Düsseldorf planned to reduce not the energy consumption but the time it takes plastic bags to biodegrade on the garbage tip. They take 10 to 15 years to disintegrate as it is, depending on how many varieties of bacteria make the garbage tip their home. That, he argues, is too long.

If his plans work the new generation of plastic bags will start to be digested by bacteria in 15 weeks. The plastic includes an admixture of bait: substances that tempt the bacteria to take a nibble. But the new bags are still experimental.

The packaging industry, the twelfth-largest in the Federal Republic, is interested in both product development and consumer behaviour.

A consumer behaviour report commissioned by French manufacturers forecasts even keener consumer interest in a wider range of fresh fruit and vegetables, exotic produce and dietary foods in the 1990s.

Packagers see this as an opportunity and a challenge. Overseas delicacies will need to be expensively and attractively packed and presented.

Yet packaging is more than mere window-dressing. Over half the Third World's food stocks are said to perish because of inadequate packaging (or none at all).

Amid the emphasis on market opportunities there was even limited scope for art, with one exhibitor featuring art on corrugated cardboard.

To symbolise the creativity of his firm, which manufactures corrugated cardboard, he commissioned a cardboard work of art from Wolf Vostell.

Vostell, whose automobile sculpture can be seen on Kurfürstendamm in Berlin, produced an *Autobetonbrunnen*, or automobile-concrete-spring, made entirely of cardboard. *dpa*

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 19 May 1987)

Glass goes round more often than plastic.
(Photo: Düsseldorfer Messegesellschaft)

The milk bottle hits back at the sachet

The milk bottle is staging a nostalgic comeback at stores and supermarkets. Elbowed out by cartons and sachets in the 1960s, it now finds favour again with environmentally-conscious gourmets.

Only best quality milk, non-homogenised with at least 3.8 per cent fat, is sold in bottles as "our best, from selected farms."

Dairy marketing experts hope to strike a chord with nostalgic, environmentally-conscious consumers.

Consumers in this category are said to be happy to pay a little more for high-quality food and for environmental protection.

They certainly have to where milk is concerned. A one-litre bottle costs DM1.89, as against DM1.19 for a carton or sachet.

Those that do so have opted for an "environment-friendly bottle" with a refundable deposit of 30 pfennigs ("please rinse before returning").

Returnable containers are a costly business. Bottles weigh more and are bulkier than cartons. They take up more room in storage and on the refrigerated shelves. Handling empties increases wage costs.

The empties have to be driven back to the dairy and washed in nearly two litres of water per bottle (plus detergent), while the milky water then needs cleansing.

Customers find bottles hard work to carry. The milk turns sour faster (in five days as against seven). Ultra-violet light can give it an unpleasant aftertaste.

These were the reasons why dairies switched from bottles to cartons, which are said to be ideally suited for milk packaging. Sachets and cartons are not as burdensome on the environment as is often claimed either.

Cartons account for only a little over one per cent of the annual quota of 15 million tonnes of household garbage. One third ends in the incinerator and two thirds disintegrates — with no harmful residues — on garbage tips.

Comparison between the two systems, taking raw material and energy consumption, atmospheric and water pollution and waste disposal into account, shows returnable bottles to have the edge only if consumers do return them (and don't just junk them).

Bottles only make sense if they are used between 15 and 20 times. In 1980-81, when Federal Interior Minister Gerhart Baum arranged for a test of milk bottles in the Rhineland, that was not the case.

The environmental idea behind the experiment failed to catch on, and as bottles were filled with ordinary milk rather than the high-grade cream-enriched variety consumers couldn't be bothered lugging heavy bottles around.

Milk bottles today weigh 430 grams, as against 760 grams, and the silver paper top has been replaced by a vacuum safety cap.

At the end of the 1980-81 experiment the Interior Ministry scrapped its subsidies and a washing and bottling plant in Aachen was closed down.

Now marketing specialists have combined the quality product and the environmental idea the flop of yesteryear seems likely to prove a success.

Only about one per cent of milk is sold in bottles at present, but the industry is confident the proportion will soon be 10 per cent.

One can but hope that bottles really will be returned. *Bettina Schulz*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 May 1987)

More drinks being sold but recycling cuts size of container dumps

Drink consumption in billion litres

10,9 — 14,0 — 16,0 — 18,0 (1970, 1975, 1980 81, 82, 83, 84, 85)

Per cent: Mineral water 20,3; Drinks without carbonic acid 14,2; Drinks with carbonic acid 24,2; Beer 36,2; Wine 5,1

Disposed drink containers in million of tons

1974: 1,57 / 1,43; 1,64; 1,49; 1,34; 1,71; 1,72; 1,24 (1974, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83)

Black area marks total recycled

CONDOR

Pilot project to get power from garbage

By the end of the year Wannsee, Berlin, will have a working 10-megawatt biogas generator. A few months later, after trials, it will feed electric power generated from garbage gas into the grid.

The entire system, extracting and processing sewage gas, will be largely automatic. It is a pilot project designed to show that power generated in this way can be economic.

Above all, the municipal electric power utility points out, the environmental gain is sure to be substantial — even if it can't be quantified in marks and pfennigs.

It will be one of about 50 installations in the Federal Republic of Germany that put sewage gas to good use, but the Berlin plant stands out from the rest in two respects.

It will be the largest facility of its kind and the first to purify the gas before harnessing it to generate power. It is de-

DIE WELT

signed to give service until at least the turn of the century.

The location is nearly ideal, a stone's throw from the Hahn-Meitner nuclear research institute and the city's largest garbage tip with an estimated 11 million tonnes of waste.

The Senator of Economic Affairs and Transport commissioned in 1981 a survey on how much gas could be usefully extracted from the tip and what uses it could be put to.

The Hahn-Meitner Institute and the municipal electric power utility then joined forces to plan a technique by which to extract sewage gas from the tip.

Boreholes — 135 of them — are being drilled all over the site to tap as much gas as possible. The holes are 80cm in diameter and between 15 and 25 metres (50-80ft) deep.

They are lined with plastic pipes. The upper sections are airtight, the lower ones louvred to let the gas in. Hand-operated valves regulate the flow of gas to six mains.

These valves make it possible to individually adjust the flow of gas from each hole. The gas mains run to a central compressor station where three compressors extract the quantities required.

Each hole has separate switchgear. Pressure, gas temperature and methane, carbon dioxide and oxygen counts are constantly monitored.

To prevent atmospheric air from being extracted from the upper strata of the tip pressures have to be carefully adjusted.

The sewage gas extracted at temperatures of between 20° and 45° centigrade is 100-per-cent saturated in steam.

As the gas is chilled in the underground pipelines there is a certain amount of condensation. Pipes run on a gradient, so this liquid trickles down to the compressor station.

Chemical analysis at the Hahn-Meitner Institute has shown the sewage gas

Continued on page 11

■ LITERATURE

The conflicts of a novelist, rooted in the endless, empty Prussian forests

Hannoversche Allgemeine

When Hitler's Reich lay in ruins, many were happy to have novelist Ernst Wiechert, a brooder on problems of spiritual regeneration, around.

He was a man to be proud of, an aristocrat of the human mind who lived fearlessly. Without personal guilt he had lived through the "subservient times" as he called them.

He wrote in his biographical novel *Der Totenwolf*, "the shame of the Reich was not his shame." Was that really true?

Wiechert always displayed composure and a courage to stand up for his beliefs. He never got mixed up with the Brown Shirts, although they strove to attract him. They saw in him a writer with a large following who seemed to be one of them.

His novels *Der Wald*, published in 1922, and *Der Totenwolf*, are full of the struggles of the "German soul." There was a swastika on the dust-cover of *Der Totenwolf*, published in 1924, that was not then a symbol of the state.

Wiechert says he was angry at this decoration to his book and protested in vain, as he described in his autobiography *Jahre und Zeiten*, published in 1949.

But there is no evidence of this protest. What is known is that Wiechert did give his approval to re-print the book in a major newspaper "under the single condition that it is not Jewish."

He saw nothing wrong in the Kapp Putsch of 1920 that was to relieve the world of the madness of democracy. In 1930 he was at home in the ultra-nationalist Fichte Society (named after philosopher Johann Gottlieb Fichte, 1762-1814) so long as this society distanced itself from politics and a world view or Weltanschauung. This circle also included people such as Hans Grimm, Frank Thiess and Edwin Erich Dwinger.

World view and politics were points he was not prepared to discuss. He regarded a world view and politics as being too highly flavoured and distasteful to him, whose intellectual and poetic life was based on internal spiritual values.

He was much influenced by the endless, empty forests of the East Prussia of his youth. He was born, 100 years ago, near Sensburg. His father was a forester.

He went to Königsberg and Berlin where, until 1933, he taught in a Gymnasium.

In his books Wiechert never tired of reviling large cities and the masses. He was always worried that urban life would devour "the magical sources of my life."

His ideal was the simple life, self-examination and peace. He also liked simple people, provided they did not appear in masses.

Wiechert saw his role as a spiritual leader. He nurtured his charisma, his position as poet and martyr, and for long refused "to bring politics into the pure sphere of creativity."

It was a foregone conclusion that he would come into conflict with the Nazis. There could be nothing further from the Nazi blood and soil idea that political stability and power depended on unification of race and territory than his novels *Die Majorin* of 1934 and *Die Hirtennovelle* of the following year.

The story *Der weiße Büffel* of 1937, however, was a parable of open criticism of the National Socialist system of domination.

His real criticism of National Socialism emerged in the two Munich publications of 1933 and 1935 *Reden an die Jugend*. He wrote: "It is possible that a people can stop seeing the difference between right and wrong . . . But such a people stands on a slippery slope and it is bound to fall."

These were brave words that were spoken in a lecture to which Nazi cultural officials were invited.

The hour of truth came in 1938. Wiechert was arrested and despatched to the Buchenwald concentration camp. The two months he spent in the concentration camp were a warning for his insubordination.

As soon as he was released he was invited to read his poetry in Weimar. It is uncertain whether he was invited or ordered there, as Wiechert would have it in his autobiography, *Jahre und Zeiten*.

He was excluded from the Reich's writers society and then taken back. His novel *Das einfache Leben* appeared and became a best-seller in the Third Reich, selling up to 1942 as many as 260,000 copies.

The "seven years of silence" about which Wiechert writes in his autobiography should be understood in a subjective sense.

His novel *Die Jerominkinder* was rejected by the censors on the grounds that it showed no joy in life. During the war this was obligatory.

His other books such as *Wälder und Menschen* and *Die Magd des Jürgen*



Aristocrat of the mind... Ernst Wiechert. (Photo: dpa)

Doskocil, (translated with the title The Girl and the Ferryman) were reprinted time and time again. Politically Wiechert had become unpopular, but desirable as an author. No publishing ban was placed on his works.

Wiechert used his experiences in Buchenwald in his novel *Der Totenwald* (translated as The Forest of the Dead). He buried the manuscript in his garden until the end of the war.

He said that he wrote more of what his soul saw than what his eyes beheld. This sums up Wiechert in his entirety.

Wiechert, like so many of the German middle classes, was not prepared to look National Socialism in the eye. He hid his head in the sands of "eternal values" and he looked at life, based unfortunately on these attitudes, with resignation in the end.

Ernst Wiechert died in 1950 in Uerikon, near Zürich, which he had chosen two years before his death as a refuge.

Manfred Riege

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 May 1987)

Man's power, man's inadequacy, man's superficial knowledge

Where have we read this before? "At present the reports on the terrible catastrophe are so contradictory..."

This was anger and a sense of helplessness expressed in newspaper reports. People look around them for the guilty and people in the public eye proclaim: "All human works are but dross."

Don't we recognise all that? And haven't we recently heard the answer from the technicians? They state: "We also have the dead on our battle-fields. It cannot be avoided."

Indeed it is well known that there are risks in technology. But these complaints were not made against the Chernobyl disaster but against disasters that took place 100 years ago.

In the liberal Berlin daily *Vossische Zeitung*, Theodor Fontane and Max Eyth did not know the expression risidual risk when on 29 December 1879 the bridge over the Tay in Scotland collapsed and 75 passengers on a train became the first victims of technical miscalculation when the train sank below the waters.

A debate on security got under way, but what good did that do?

Thirty-three years later there was another warning sign, renewed anger and brooding on whether mankind had control over what men created.

The "unsinkable" *Titanic* went down in the Atlantic with hundreds drowned.

For only a short period technology has been able to put fear into the human race for its very existence. More than a century and a half ago there were catastrophes, wars and earthquakes. From the very beginning of the technical era there have been disasters that have drawn attention to man's power and man's failures, man's inadequacy and man's superficial knowledge and people's ability to close their eyes to potential dangers, either on political or economic grounds.

The progress of such inadequate power can be noted from the number of people affected. There were 75 on the Tay, thousands when the *Titanic* went down and millions on the Continent after Chernobyl.

Technical development is continuously accompanied by re-considerations and doubts as well as heated discussions in defence, found time and time again in any number of academic treatise, pamphlets, articles and novels.

The industrial era has produced its own literature, its own themes and conflicts and its own literary forms.

It would seem a mammoth task to document all this for who would be brave enough to draw up dividing lines and where?

In an era in which technology pervades in every corner of life even to the instruments used by the writer, isn't everything "literature in the industrial age?"

Ulrich Ott, director of the Schiller National Museum in Marbach, said: "If we want to pursue all the influences of the technical world on literature we must not present a whole period as reflected in literature but the literature of a total era."

Ott and his assistants have tried, have dared, to select, to define epochs and separate lines of development.

A major exhibition in the Schiller National Museum shows how variously technology and industry have been reflected in literature — as a basic theme,



STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

as a means of production and as a means of creating work. The exhibition is entitled "Literature in the industrial age" and is open until the end of October.

A whole literary epoch is documented in 37 divisions, each reduced to the contents of one glass case.

The concision is good for the theme, for the books, even if they are handwritten manuscripts or second-hand books from the period, are meant to be read not looked at.

Ott regards the exhibition as a means of stimulating interest, as "a call to visitors to read further."

The exhibition traces this development, industry and technology in literature, the development of what could be called a non-relationship between literary and technical culture.

In his speech at the opening of the exhibition physicist and philosopher Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker said the relationship between the two cultures was not symmetrical. Literature can show the way to an understanding of others, to the wisdom of self-knowledge, which can be applied to self-criticism of society.

But he said that when the two cultures came into conflict then the difference of their weapons led mainly to a continuation of their only existing side by side but without having anything to do with one another. A knowledge of the laws of technology gives a more power. Literature's more powerful weapon is the word.

Both prove to be inadequate if it is a question of human problems involving technology. So how should a satisfactory relationship in terms of power relationships grow?

Ott quoted from the acceptance speech of Nobel Prize-winner Saint John Pearse in 1960. He said: "In view of nuclear energy will the lamps made of clay be sufficient for the poet's intentions? Yes, if man thinks of the worldly. And if the poet is satisfied in being the

Continued on page 11

■ OPERA

Unclear if a truncated 'Les Huguenots' means a real revival for Meyerbeer

The Deutsche Oper in Berlin has made a unique contribution to the celebrations marking the 750th anniversary of the city's foundation.

The opera is doing nothing less than trying to win a place in the repertoire again for a son of the city, Jakob Liebmann Beer, better known as Giacomo Meyerbeer.

To do this a producer was engaged who has already won acclaim for his production in Bielefeld of *Le Prophète*, John Dew.

From the outset it seems bringing up to date such a decidedly historical opera as *Les Huguenots* was a questionable course to follow. The music, which uses as a leitmotiv the Luther choral *Ein feste Burg*, is also thematically hardly a relevant contrast to Christian belief today. The opera was first performed in Paris in 1836.

The libretto by Eugène Scribe and Emile Deschamps, dealing with the massacre of St Bartholomew's Eve, is a challenge for any kind of musical treatment.

Dew sees the occasional conflicts of belief in the opera as a pretext for the main theme of destructive aggression by people to people.

He has reduced the five-hour performing time of the original to less than three hours. It is no longer dramatically clumsy, as far as the public is concerned, although the music suffers.

Marcel's famous Huguenot Aria, sung by Jan Hendrik Rootering, is cut out. This is meaningfully linked to the opening choral, which has to be eliminated as a consequence. This is going too far.

Gottfried Pilz, who did the sets and costumes, created an ambiguous set of walls, comparable to the time tunnel concept in Friedrich Sykora's *Ring*.

Instead of a curtain there is a wall with walled-up windows which rises to reveal the performing area similarly surrounded by walls.

This suggests a court-yard on the Berlin Wall in the Kreuzberg district, a concentration camp or some such other threatening dungeon.

The walls are symbols of barriers of any sort — social, religious or political. These can be associated with the generalised party conflicts and the religious persecution of the Huguenots in the 16th century, or the Jews under the Nazi regime as well as the battles in Northern Ireland or South Africa, or the collisions of the two political blocs in Berlin.

Why should a work by a Jew concerning St Bartholomew's Eve not by linked to the Nazi's Crystal Night and even with the nuclear threat of mass extermination?

Without disregarding in any way the excellently choreographed crowd scenes this great political opera unexpectedly becomes psychologically-motivated, realistic musical theatre. That means it becomes a fantastic story, telling of the tragic fate of Valentine and Raoul, two lovers caught up between two opposing forces.

In the fifth act, in a church-yard to which the wives and children of the Huguenots have fled, Valentine finds Raoul and implores him to embrace her faith so as to save himself, but the Catholics break into the church and kill Raoul, Marcel and Valentine with a volley of shot. The Comte de St Bris, leader of the Catholics, realises that his daughter, Valentine, is among the dead.

So before the action tips into tragic catastrophe, comedy is played out.

The first act is almost like an operetta by Offenbach. The Comte de Nevers (Lenus Carlson) has invited his Catholic friends to a celebration in a set of leather, clublike armchairs. The champagne corks pop. The ladies-in-waiting attending Margarethe de Valois (Angela Denning) are celebrating the peace between the Catholics and Huguenots. They romp about in bikinis and swimsuits in a swimming pool. The second act is idyllic.

From the third act there is a break in the rear wall, a signal of increasing hostility. Instead of reconciliation there is a worsening of the situation leading to the catastrophe of the massacre, in which the Catholics fight, in the name of God, to annihilate God their supposed sworn enemies, the Huguenots, or Protestants.

The stage direction is strict, conventional to some extent in the style common in the 1950s.

It is as if it was calculated to present every musical number so that it could be applauded enthusiastically.

The well-trained chorus, always in action, was the high point of the production. (Marcus Creed who trained the chorus and who is leaving the opera will be hard to replace.)

Although the musical concept seemed illprepared, Jesus Lopez-Cobos brought together what was left of the score with enough care and with regard for quality to make sense of the music that falls between Spohr, Weber, Berlioz and late Verdi.

Wagner was no lover of Meyerbeer's grand opera. He maintained that the music affected audiences without there being any substance in them.

Except for a few small parts the ensemble was of excellent quality. Pilar Lorengar (Valentine) shone out over everyone else with her stage presence and her astonishingly youthful-sounding soprano voice. Her younger colleagues could well emulate her, for she has maintained a high level of musicality in her singing for thirty years.

Her partner, Richard Leech making his debute as Raoul, was rather put into the shade by her. He is generally regarded as a surprising discovery as a tenor, but he did not have control over his voice and he was technically clumsy.

The opera ended and the real curtain fell. Whether the applause at the finale indicated a pseudo success or a long-term revival of Meyerbeer for Berlin only time can tell.

Hanna Niederdorfer

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 15 May 1987)

Tipping into tragic catastrophe . . . John Dew's version of *Les Huguenots*. (Photo: Binder/Thiele)

Man's inadequacy

Continued from page 10

bad conscience of his times." The documents exhibited are mainly concerned with criticism and admonition, primarily because of the euphoric belief in progress as such. Both attitudes are represented and the wide spectrum between them.

It begins with machines that ought to imitate man and ends with a desk computer from which visitors can retrieve information about human affairs — primarily the answers from 48 authors on the question of their relationships to technology.

The exhibition highlights the first ecological battle between Gottfried Keller and Justinus Kerner about railways. It highlights "social questions" in the weavers riot, the origins of individual worker literature and contemporary with that the industrialisation of book production.

The exhibition highlights the first technological shocks and dreams of utopia and deterrence, futurism and the drum beat of war, new forms of writing such as reporting, the new media, that are "replacements for dreams," and finally the obligations imposed on literature during the Third Reich.

The exhibition's themes extend to the present, to Günter Grass's *Die Rättin*, but its strength lies in the century before the Second World War.

Peter-Paul Schneider arranged the exhibition and produced the two-volume catalogue. He said that the Third Industrial Revolution was not included in the exhibition. Literature itself must first tackle this to remain true to its role.

Literature is an observer of industrial development, but also an observer reflecting and explaining the history of this development.

Rainer Klüting

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 12 May 1987)

Garbage power

Continued from page 9

to include traces of several hundred organic substances.

They total roughly one gram per cubic metre, including 15 milligrams of organic chlorine compounds, some of which are toxic or carcinogenic.

Minute traces of dioxin and furan isomers led to the decision to purify the gas before processing it.

This filtration stage is specially designed to extract chlorinated hydrocarbons, which have the added disadvantage of being corrosive.

The filtered gas is burnt in three 16-cylinder gas engines, turbo-loaders directly linked to 10,000-volt high-tension generators.

They can generate a maximum 1.5 megawatts. The 6.5 megawatts of process heat consists of roughly half coolant and engine oil and half exhaust gas.

The oil and water heat is extracted from the engines via a separate water cycle, providing the option of piped heating for a limited number of local residents.

The selective catalytic reduction process is used to drastically reduce the Nox count of the exhaust fumes.

The exhaust is fed a specific admixture of ammonia solution and the nitric oxides emerge from a ceramic catalytic converter as nitrogen and steam.

Dieter Thierbach

(Die Welt, Bonn, 19 May 1987)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Waterways face asphyxiation from the Green Death

Algae (seaweed to the layman) come in all shapes and sizes. There are roughly 25,000 varieties and their uses vary widely.

Ingredients of the versatile brown algae, such as alginic acid and alginate, are used to thicken concrete and to stabilise whipped cream.

Ingredients of other members of the Algae family are found in milk drinks, chocolates and candies, while antibiotics are extracted from Corallina and Polysiphonia, which are varieties of red algae.

Green algae, the variety most often found on the seashore, are held in high repute as a source of human food and animal fodder by virtue of their protein and fat content.

The melting-pot of evolution has even resulted in certain blue algae varieties thriving in hot spring water at temperatures of 70° C, or 144° F.

The self-purification of water depends largely on the varied talents of the mighty microbe (algae are single-cell creatures).

Scientists in contrast see the alga as a natural seismograph. Examined under the microscope, it reveals the quality of the water it has come from.

Some years ago many biologists were seriously worried lest algae might not survive the "chemical mace" of farm fertilisers



and industrial effluent that was pouring into rivers, lakes, the North Sea and the Baltic.

They were worried pollution might kill the algae and turn the seas and lakes biologically stone dead.

They were mistaken. The opposite happened. The surfeit of fertiliser phosphorus and nitrogen compounds was a field-day for algae — and for the micro-organisms that live on them and the fish that live on a diet of micro-organisms.

But the resulting food cycle still threatened to prove fatal for seas and lakes.

Most algae lack natural enemies and die a natural death. Their bodies sink to the seabed or the bed of the lake, where ravenous aerobic bacteria are waiting to convert them into anorganic salts.

The bacteria need enormous amounts of oxygen to fuel this process: the conversion of biomass into minerals.

If a constant number of bacteria are assigned the task of handling dead algae they will soon run out of steam and the much-vaunted ecological balance will tilt.

The water runs short of oxygen. Dead algae mount up on the seabed or the bed of the lake. Swamp gas — methane — is generated, plus toxic hydrogen sulphide (H_2S).

The phosphates absorbed by the algae are no longer converted into minerals. They dissolve in the water instead, providing living algae with more and more food.

The cycle then turns full circle. The water is asphyxiated by algae and dies a green death — progressively, faster year by year, but over a period of years.

Anglers don't notice the change for some time. The surfeit of algae first leads to very bountiful catches.

Later they find their catches consist mainly of white fish rather than the more highly-rated varieties; white fish are less sensitive to oxygen shortage and breed near the shore.

Then comes the first large-scale death of fish, with algae flourishing and increasingly clogging up waterways.

Toxic gases such as H_2S kill all life. A living lake is transformed into an evil-smelling expanse of effluent.

Eutrophy is the name ecologists give to this process. It means the water, overfertilised, has died of a surfeit of nutrient. An immediate and total ban on pumping untreated effluent, especially liquid manure and detergent waste with their cargo of phosphate, comes too late at this stage. The water's regenerative powers have grown too weak.

Danish research scientists say this is what has happened to large areas of the North Sea, where wide expanses of seabed are lifeless wastes.

It is hard to resuscitate a lake — and very complicated. The sludge must first be dredged from its bed, and local authorities lack the cash to pay for dredging.

Yet to pump oxygen down to the bed through perforated hosepipes is to run the risk of air bubbles rising to the surface and mixing water strata otherwise separate and differing in temperature.

Surface layers might soon be permeated by methane, asphyxiating the last fish in the lake.

Muggesfelder See near Bad Segeberg, *north of Hamburg, is a lake that has died* this green death.

Below four metres the water of what still looks to be an idyllic lake is dead. It is one of 90 lakes that have died the death in Schleswig-Holstein alone.

The local authorities, alarmed by complaints raised by anglers and holidaymakers, are keen to learn about suitable techniques of resuscitating lakes that serve as recreation centres for both residents and visitors.

But Swiss and Swedish techniques are either too expensive or dissolve too much nitrogenin the water — with the result that fish surfacing from deeper water die of the bends — the diver's disease!

Fred Petersen, an engineer from Barsbüttel, near Hamburg, has solved the problem: first experimentally and now on a series basis.

He spent 10 years working on icebreaker techniques, especially with ice jets that spray a fine veil of finest air bubbles across the ship's keel. In certain conditions this technique can lower the resistance of the ice to be broken. In Barsbüttel he then embarked on what executives and economists refer to, somewhat theoretically, as technology transfer.

Petersen, a practical man, holds a different view. As he sees it he set about wondering where else a "fine film of air in water" might prove useful.

Now public opinion, alarmed by tree deaths, has begun to worry about lakes dying too, Petersen saw a market opening.

He filled it with his invention, the deep-water ventilation device, or Tibean for short (a German acronym).

Tibean is basically an aluminium buoy with a base that reaches down to the bed of the lake. Its prefabricated sections can be transported to the lakeside and assembled in a few hours.

It functions as an artificial lung, breathing new life into the water by means of a submarine electric motor, a snorkel and standpipe, an exhaust pipe and a waste pipe.

Petersen's DM1.1m pilot unit was put to the test last August in the 30-hectare (75-acre) Muggesfelder See.

The lake was poisoned almost to the surface, saturated with H_2S, the stuff of which stink bombs are made.

"It stank terribly," the 39-year-old inventor recalls. Analysis of the exhaust fumes painted an alarming picture of the condition of deep-water lakes.

Biological processes cannot be reversed in a single summer season. It will be a while before the lake is considered to have been cured, with a nutrient count that has been restored to normal.

Petersen says a Tibean cure costs DM500 per hectare, assuming the installation is run 180 days a year for three years.

That was good news for the Ministry of Research and Technology in Bonn, which helped to finance the Petersen project. Minister Heinz Riesenhuber invested DM830,000 in Tibean as a pilot project.

Ministry officials were delighted, noting that the system worked at the first attempt, used less power than had been estimated beforehand and was streets ahead of *similar schemes in other countries.*

Petersen Schiffstechnik GmbH was set up in 1985 as one of the first firms launched under the aegis of the Hamburg technology promotion centre in Harburg.

It was set up mainly to develop water jet manoeuvring equipment but might now just as well change its name to Petersen Lake Resuscitation Co.

The lake project was originally intended as no more than a second string to the new company's bow; it has since proved so successful that the entire company is concentrating on Tibean. The entire company consists of a staff of 10, including five engineers. They sell and lease the system and solve problems ranging from biological and chemical analysis to maintenance.

Fred Petersen's idea is a combination of successful technology transfer, imaginative free enterprise and job-creating environmental technology.

Wolfgang Wiedlich

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 16 May 1987)



Blowing bubbles. Initial results with Tibean, this aeration system for dead waterways, have been successful. (Photo: AP)

Device monitors rivers, lakes, round the clock

Berlin environmental engineers have devised a new system they call Tox-Alarm to maintain a round-the-clock vi*gil on the toxin input into rivers and* lakes.

It is based on a measuring cell filled with bacteria typically found in inland waterways. The alarm is sounded as the bacteria's oxygen consumption declines, which occurs in inverse proportion to the toxin count in the water.

Tox-Alarm is planned for installation at existing measuring stations. Typical bacteria were first artificially cultivated, the bacteria count being maintained at a constant level by means of an automatic nutrient supply.

Water is pumped 24 hours a day from the river or lake and fed to an exact quantity of bacteria in the measuring *cell. The water sample is saturated in* oxygen.

If the water is free from toxins the sensitive bacteria stay alive and use larger quantities of oxygen.

If, in contrast, no more oxygen is consumed, or oxygen consumption plummets, the bacteria have clearly been damaged or destroyed by toxins. The environmental authorities are promptly alarmed by cable or wireless. Prompt remedial action can then be undertaken with little delay.

The system registers the presence of a toxin within two to four minutes. It takes about half an hour before the final reading is available.

If need be the device, which is similar in size to a refrigerator and is at present *still made by hand in Berlin,* can even take its own water samples.

It reacts to all substances that impede bacterial oxygen consumption. Substances that typically impede oxygen consumption, such as cyanide, are spotted in next to no time. The device is said to react most sensitively to mercury too.

The Berlin engineers feel it could be used wherever continuous measurement of water quality is either necessary or desirable. That means environment agencies, industry and water authorities.

Critical or dangerous effluent pumped into rivers or lakes could for instance be monitored. Sewage treatment facilities could be better protected from biological death.

The system was devised in Berlin, on the Havel and the Spree, and has since passed with flying colours tests on the Innerste, a dirty little river near Hildesheim in Lower Saxony.

It proved so successful there that the Lower Saxon water boards authority decided to use the system round the clock.

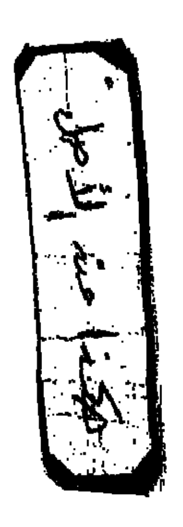
The Hamburg environmental protection agency has also ordered a Tox-Alarm (they cost DM50,000).

The device is easy to service and maintain. Its nutrient and distilled water need topping up once a fortnight.

That is all. The unit functions at temperatures of between -5° C and +40° C.

Ulrich Paul

(Die Welt, Bonn, 21 May 1987)



■ MEDICINE

Ancient Indian method is put to the modern test

Many people turn to alternative medicines if conventional western medical practice cannot help them.

Alternative medicines are generally rejected by the conventional medical profession, but that doesn't mean to say they are all quack treatments.

Many are successful. All that is lacking is acknowledged scientific proof that they work.

Homeopathy and naturopathy are popular. Two traditional but exotic approaches are ayurvedic and unani medicine.

Successful clinical trials of an ayurvedic liver medicine were reviewed at a sympoisum in Feldafing, near Starnberg, Bavaria, by an associate of Josef Eisenburg's at the internal medicine department of the Brothers of Mercy Hospital in Munich.

The symposium was held by Intermed of Freiburg, a society that has set itself the task of testing traditional medical treatment by *the yardsticks of modern* medicine.

Intermed pays special attention to the classic Indian techniques of Ayurveda, the oldest surviving systematic approach to medicine.

It was first described in Sanskrit documents dating back to between 1500 and 1000 BC. The Rig Veda mentions operations, artificial limbs and 67 curative herbs.

The Charaka Samhita, written by an Ancient Indian vaid, or doctor, in about 1000 BC. even includes a systematic description of diseases.

His diagnosis was based on careful observation and description of clinical appearances, including the patient's personality, constitution and disposition.

In the seventh century AD Chinese and Tibetan medicine found their way into the Ayurveda when Vagbhata wrote his Astangarhdaya.

Indian and European doctors may well have exchanged ideas in antiquity. The ayurvedic teaching that all biological functions of the body are governed by three "body fluids" is echoed in Hippocrates' tenet that mucus, blood and gall are the foundations of sickness and health.

Indian medicine found its way to Europe via the Arabs. When they conquered large areas of India at the end of the eighth century AD ayurvedic medicine exerted a powerful influence on its *Arab counterpart.*

The Arabs brought this knowledge with them on their later invasions of southern Europe.

In its country of origin Ayurveda steadily declined in status under British colonial rule. But independent India soon recalled its medical heritage.

The first ayurvedic research institute was set up in 1954 and roughly 300,000 ayurvedic practitioners now help the sick in South Asia.

Interest in traditional Indian medicine has grown in Europe and America, with pharmaceutical companies taking the lead — and not, as might have been expected, alternative groups.

The first multinational pharmaceutical company to set up a research facility in India did so in the early 1960s. Others followed suit.

Their aim is to identify in Indian medicinal herbs substances that can be put to pharmaceutical use. But so far they have had little success.

Research scientists who have analysed Chinese drugs for pharmaceutical substances have been similarly unsuccessful.

"Current screening procedures usually extract herbal ingredients by means of standard methods," says Paul Unschuld, head of Munich University department of medical history.

"Agents can," he adds, "be destroyed in the process." His advice is to abide by traditional procedures in treating herbs.

Christoph von Keudell, Intermed's general secretary, does not limit himself to the quest for pharmaceutically effective single substances in traditional medicines.

He favours testing traditional medicines in the traditional manner for treating the complaint they are supposed to help cure.

Liv. 52 is the ayurvedic medicine successful clinical trials of which were reviewed in Feldafing. It consists of extracts of several medicinal herbs and has been used in India for centuries to treat liver complaints.

Clinical trials in modern India have confirmed its efficacy. Josef Eisenburg in Munich has checked how effective it

Süddeutsche Zeitung

is in treating chronic hepatitis and a number of serious liver conditions due *to alcohol. He found Liv. 52 to have no* effect in cases of virus or auto-immune hepatitis, whereas good to very good results were achieved in treating alcohol-related liver damage.

"Patients were released in a condition we have failed to achieve with previously available treatments," he says.

In the Federal Republic of Germany Liv. 52 is not yet licensed as a patent medicine. The Federal Health Office, Berlin, feels further tests are needed. The Swiss medical authorities have, in contrast, already licensed it.

"What we want," said Christoph von Keudell, "is to concentrate on probing traditional medicine for possibilities of treating chronic complaints for which conventional Western medicine has yet to come up with satisfactory treatments."

Difficulties are likely to arise in adopting Asian techniques. "There is only a handful of transcultural categories of complaint," says Paul Unschuld. "They include leprosy, malaria, diarrhoea in children and premature birth."

Chinese medicine and Ayurveda, he explains, are mainly based on diagnostic criteria that are not in keeping with modern diseases, which are specific to contemporary civilisation.

A Chinese medicine that is claimed to cure yin deficiency in the liver is hard to pigeonhole in the modern spectrum of complaints. Yet traditional medicine is still a treasure trove of unknown experience.

"Only two of the 7,000 textbooks on Chinese medicine published before 1930," Unschuld says, "have been seriously translated into Western languages."

Christine Broll

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 21 May 1987)

Acupuncture as a child-birth pain killer

Acupuncture is recommended by a growing number of gynaecologists and obstetricians in the Federal Republic of Germany as a pain-killer during confinement — and more and more pregnant women are trying it.

Inserting needles in a handful of the 361 acupuncture points in the body, says Gabriel Stux, head of the German Acupuncture Society, Düsseldorf, can reduce the time of delivery by up to half.

The points that kill the pain and cut the time of labour are on the head and hands and the inside of one thigh. Needles are inserted as soon as labour starts and kept in position until childbirth is over.

The effect of acupuncture can be enhanced by attaching the needles to a low-voltage electrical stimulation device.

Acupuncture treatment has been scientifically proved to kill pain. The endorphine count, or concentration of the body's own opiates, proves the point.

This pain-killer effect is not the only feature that makes acupuncture an ideal obstetric technique.

Dr Stux says its relaxing and reassuring influence on the patient's mind brings about a crucial improvement in the course of childbirth.

Learning acupuncture techniques is easier said than done for German doctors. It has yet to be acknowledged as a treatment by the General Medical Council.

So doctors have to rely on their own initiative and on the courses offered by five acupuncture societies in various parts of the country.

All five are run by conventional doctors and not by non-medical practitioners. *All offer, on a self-help basis,* a wide range of courses in the traditional Chinese technique.

Courses are particularly well attended in Düsseldorf, where even professors have been known to exchange the lectern for the desk.

"Doctors, medical students and midwives need to be given first-rate training," Dr Stux says, "if we are to ensure that acupuncture is not just regarded as an exotic treatment that is inapplicable in Western coalitions."

He is also keen to ensure that what sees as a valuable means of treatment is not brought into disrepute by charlatans.

That is why German acupuncture *specialists would like to see standard* teaching and examination procedures adopted — along the lines of specialist training in other branches of medicine.

Dr Stux says between 4,000 and 5,000 doctors have been trained in acupuncture in the Federal Republic and between 2,000 and 3,000 use it on patients.

These figures are low in comparison with other European countries. In France, Austria and Sweden, for instance, acupuncture has long been an accepted medical discipline — and is taught at university.

Health insurance schemes pay for acupuncture treatment in these countries. In the Federal Republic they usually don't. Only a handful foot the bill, and then only on special application.

"In Germany," Dr Stux says, "acupuncture is often tried as a last resort when all else has failed. It ought to be the other way round."

Vera Zylka

(Die Welt, Bonn, 22 May 1987)

■ FRONTIERS

What's in a name? Quite a lot, apparently

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The wife shall be subservient to the husband and take his name. That is not a quotation from the Bible but from Prussian Common Law enacted in 1794.

This was the first time that German law established that a wife should bear the name of her husband — to that date this custom had not been followed and certainly not in all parts of Germany.

Since 1794 it has been in writing and came to be regarded as natural law. All members of a family use a uniform name. So it is that Frau Müller has the same name as Herr Müller. Daughter Gabi and son Hermann also have their father's surname. Nothing could be more practical.

But what if Frau Müller sees in her maiden name, Valentin, something more than just a name, in fact if she sees in it something of her personality and identity?

Professionally she was known as Frau Valentin, so she decides to adopt a double-barrelled name, Valentin-Müller. But in the end she is not happy with this solution either.

She is not alone in her dissatisfaction. More and more married woman and women lawyers have become increasingly critical of legislation covering married names, so that now the matter has come before the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe.

A decision has to be made on a submision made by the Tübingen district court whether the compulsion to adopt a uniform family name is contrary to Basic Law or not.

Legislation concerning surnames has had to relent a lot in recent times. Before 1976 the only solution available to women was to affix their maiden name to that of their husband's surname — which was quickly a dead letter as a result of daily usage.

Then legislation made a concession to women. Today husband and wife can jointly decide upon the family name, that is whether they will use the husband's or the wife's surname as the family name.

Husband and wife must both use this family name. The partner whose name is not used can use his or her surname in front of the family name, creating a double-barrelled name.

Both partners cannot have a double-barrelled name. The children can only use the family name.

That sounds very fair, but in practice it is not. Experience has shown that it is always the wife who has to adopt an unpopular double-barrelled name. Few men give up their surname or are prepared to use a doubled-barrelled name.

More often the family name and the surname used by the children is that of the husband. Furthermore the law helps this arrangement along a little: if the couple cannot agree on a surname then the family automatically uses the husband's surname.

The Tübingen district court found that this was not exactly the ideal solution, and have made public these doubts in the 18 January 1987 issue of *Europäische Grundrechtszeitschrift* along with two women lawyers from Freiburg, Nina Dethloff and Susanne Walther.

They argue that the compulsion for a uniform family name, which means that either the husband or wife must surrender or change their surname, is an excessive infringement of legislation covering surnames as well as on the rights of the individual.

By using a double-barrelled name partners do indeed retain their previous surname, but the name becomes unresognisable or risible.

They maintain that the right to one's own name, which the constitution guarantees everyone, is disregarded by this kind of parody.

The double-barrelled name shows two things: that the women who bears it is married and to whom she is wed, two features that should not have to be divulged at random.

The two lawyer writers of the article regard this as an encrouchment into the individual sphere. The individual should have control over what is made public and what not.

Dethloff and Walther also criticise the regulation that if there is dispute over the surname then the husband's name is automatically used.

One does not need to be a lawyer to recognise that this regulation is not in harmony with equal rights legislation in Basic Law.

What would be the simplest solution then? The Tübingen district court does along with the view expressed by Nina Dethkloff and Susanne Walther that both partners in a marriage should be able to retain their surname. A uniform name could be chosen for the children, either the husband's or the wife's.

It is uncertain whether the Constitutional Court will go along with this demand. The idea of a uniform family name is the darling of many, mainly male, lawyers. They see marriage and family in danger if parents have different surnames.

Nina Dethloff and Susanne Walther have produced surprising counter-evidence. In most Western countries, in which marriage and family are much more highly regarded than in this country, there is no compulsion to have a uniform family name.

Even in Catholic Ireland, where divorce is forbidden, the wife is free to use her maiden name — the same is true for the USA, England, France, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, the Scandinavian countries and some Latin American states.

There are no statistics to show how frequently this choice is used and whether this is viable in ordinary daily life. But from the legal point of view there is no prohibition for a woman to use her maiden name.

It is possible to question the view that the marriage and family are protected by the use of a uniform surname. Many young women regard the compulsion to surrender their maiden name or change their name as an obstacle in the way of a successful marriage.

Who knows, perhaps the marriage statitities would shoot up if the Constitutional Court voted for a change of married name legislation.

Dorothee Nolte

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 17 May 1987)

The only child 'has undeserved reputation', says survey

The only child's reputation of being doted on by father and mother, of being spoiled, stubborn, shy and pitiable, is undeserved says a study.

Tomas G. Kürthy, of the education institute at the Aachen technical university, found that there are more problems with middle children than with only children.

Kürthy, who says he has an only child which is developing completely normally, carried out the survey with Ulrich Unzner, Sabine Vuth and Andrea Köwitz. A thousand students at the university were questioned. There are plans to have the results published as a book.

Because of the results, middle children are to be the subject of another study. The German research institute, DFG, has already given its approval.

Kürthy said the findings showed that the only child was friendly and approachable and had positive attitudes. Girls were even more balanced than boys.

Comparisons were made with middle children: 72 per cent of only children considered their families to be open-minded but only 62 per cent of middle children; 39.7 per cent of middle children compared with 25 per cent of only children said their families were authoritarian.

This negative image about the family also revealed itself in negative self images, says the survey. Many things were wrong with the middle child. Often it was ignored.

Kürthy says the only child is a typical middle-class, white-collar phenomenon. Wealthier and poorer families mostly had bigger families.

However, middle-class families had a generally more highly-developed sense of education and gave much more encouragement to their children to perform well at school.

The reason that the only girl tended to outperform the only boy might be connected with the fact that mothers of only children resumed careers more quickly than other mothers and thus offered their daughters a double- identification: as a housewife and as a breadwinner. This perhaps showed the girl a different perspective and another incentive.

Boys, on the other hand, were more likely to identify with the father, a situation which presented a rather more taken-for-granted image.

Kürthy decided to investigate the only child because it is becoming a more common phenomenon and there is a shortage of research about he or she.

He says a good start to bringing up the only child well is for the parents to have a good relationship with one another. Quotes like "we live only for you" and "you are my one and only" are a deadly mistake, he says.

The only child should not be the central point of family life and should not be protected from the less pleasant things of the world. Still less should a mother use her only child as a substitute for an unloving husband.

Gisela Boschmann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 19 May 1987)

How Romantic ideal ended bigamy debate

The law states that each person may only have one partner in marriage. But 200 years ago there was in Germany considerable hectic argument for and against polygamy.

Two royal cases of polygamy brought this explosive theme into public discussion, according to Paul Mikat, 62, professor of law at Bochum University.

Mikat, a former North Rhine-Westphalia Education Minister, for many years a CDU member of the Bundestag and now a government adviser, presented his findings on polygamy at the North Rhine-Westphalia Scientific Academy in Düsseldorf.

He discovered that monogramy was common among the Teutons in pre

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Christian times. The only exceptions were among the nobility.

For a long time, under the influence of Christianity, there was no dispute that the law of God and Nature demanded monogamy.

Then came the Landgrave Philipp of Hesse, one of the most important supporters of the Reformation. He sought to take as his second wife the beautiful lady-in-waiting Margarete von der Saale.

According to Mikat Martin Luther agreed to a dispensation on the grounds that bigamy was better than divorce.

The Landgrave married on 5 March 1540 and it should have remained secret. But soon it was common knowledge all over Germany that the prince had concluded a second marriage with the approval of the Church. This set rolling the discussion on polygamy.

This reached its height in the 18th century when famous lawyers could see no reason why polygamy was against the law. Both partners in marriage could do what they pleased. This was the first signs of equal opportunity for both sexes.

Some learned lawyers would not only approve of a man having several wives but a wife having several husbands — polyandry.

Legislators did not let themselves be impressed by the discussion. At times they threatened to behead anyone found guilty of bigamy.

Mikat found an interesting point of view from Carl Gottlieb Svarez, creator of Prussian Common Law of 1794.

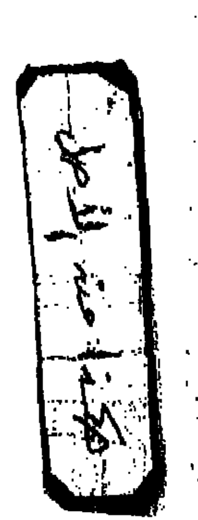
The learned Svarez said that nature had nothing against a man having more than one wife if he could feed her and provided he had the consitution able to fulfil what was the aim of marriage. With many wives then polygamy was allowable.

Nevertheless the state's command for monogamy was wise, he believed, because it brought about peace and harmony in family. It also prevented rich men from having many wives that could give rise to the danger of the depletion of the lower classes.

The whole discussion came to an end with the Romantic idea of the "internal unity between two people" as being the highest ideal of marriage.

Horst Zimmermann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 20 May 1987)



■ SPORT

Pack of talent at the heels of Steffi Graf

Steffi Graf has won six tennis championships this year. Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, the pair who have dominated women's tennis for more than a decade, haven't won any. This month is the French Open, the first of the Grand Slam titles. It is followed by Wimbledon, now the only major tournament still played on grass. It is in these two arenas that Graf will be trying to demonstrate what everyone thinks: that she is now the top player in women's tennis. But she is not the only West German woman on the way up. Behind her is a pack ready to explode on the world of top tennis. Here, in the *Deutsche Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt*, Heidi Ahrens takes a look at Germany's rising starlets.

Steffi Graf won her sixth title of the year when she beat fellow-German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch in Berlin to win the West German open. This makes her favourite for the French title next month.

Graf is still only 17 and her position on the threshold of knocking Martina Navratilova from the pedestal of women's tennis is looked upon with awe by her fellow players.

Claudia Porwick regards Steffi as "the talent of the century" against whom others shouldn't be measured.

Gertainly Steffi's success is disguising the fact that other players are also highly talented: Kohde-Kilsch, loser of the Berlin final, is 23; Bettina Bunge, also 23; and Eva Pfaff, a ripe old 26.

Kohde-Kilsch, Pfaff, Bunge and Graf are in the world's top 50 players. Only the Americans have more. *Behind them is a group including Porwick*, 18, Silke Meier, 18, Isabel Cueto, 18, Christina Singer, 18, and Wiltrud Probst, 17.

Meier, from Wiesbaden, is the daughter of a former soccer professional. She began playing tennis at the age of nine, which she regards as being a bit late. She is now number 72 on the world list.

Her biggest success was this month in the Berlin tournament when she beat the Czech player, Helena Sukova, the fifth seed, in the second round, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. In the next round she was eliminated by the Argentine player, P. Tarabini, being forced to retire when down 1-6, 0-5.

She knows exactly where her strengths and weaknesses lie. She says she has improved her service and regards her big strength as responding well in the heat of battle.

It is not a universal quality: Isabel. Cueto, from Kehl, sometimes looks full of inhibitions. She won the West German closed championship last year and should achieve much more if only she can get more confidence. She was beaten in Berlin in the second round by Christina Singer, 7-5, 6-1.

Claudia Porwick is another who needs to work at her game. In Berlin she was beaten by Graf. She gave very little resistance and admits she avoided being drawn into long rallies. But there is no doubt that she can play. She is 98th in the world rankings and reached the final of the Taiwan tournament this year where she was beaten by Anne Minter. In Berlin, she beat American Kathy Horvath.

Another up-and-comer is Probst, from Nuremberg, who this year has climbed 15 places in the world rankings to 115th. She is no longer one of those players *for whom the first round* is also the last.

Christina Singer, from Göppingen, is ranked 150th. She won the German junior titles in 1984 and 1985 and high expectations have been placed in her. She plays aggressively with good concentration. She varies her game well and is clever.

However, there must be a question mark over the strength of her ambition because she has more than just tennis on her mind — at the moment, anyway. She wants to pass her *Abitur* (university entrance) examination. Then she will think about what to do. She says she might play as a professional for three or four years. Navratilova and Evert are both past 30 and their game shows it. The German girls are all young. They need *only to turn* their potential into performance. Then Meier, Porwick, Cueto, Probst and Singer would mean that nine German women players would be giving the courts of the world something to think about.

Heide Ahrens

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 14 May 1987)

Getting used to playing in shadow of The Star

Frankfurter Allgemeine

There is only one star. The rest are also-rans. Those are the facts of the matter as Claudia Kohde-Kilsch ruefully sees it.

The Star is Steffi Graf. And Kohde-Kilsch is walking in the shadow of The Star.

In Berlin this month, Graf beat Kohde-Kilsch in the final of the German women's open 6-2, 6-3. The loser, at 23 six years the elder, showed only flashes *of her talent. She made lots of unforced* errors and looked at times to be a bundle of nerves.

Yet three years ago, Kohde-Kilsch was the name to watch. She has been as high as fourth in world rankings, but today she is 10th and Graf is up there at 2.

Nobody notices

She has come to terms with reality: "You can play well, but when someone else from the same country plays as well as Steffi does to win tournaments, nobody notices."

Kohde-Kilsch has had difficulty playing well since Graf started stringing wins together.

She denies that Graf's success is an inhibiting factor, but the way the two have gone up and down in the world rankings tend to say otherwise.

At the beginning of this year, Kohde-Kilsch reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open in Melbourne, but that was the high point. Her game slipped and she dropped to 10th, her worst rating for three years.

Her stepfather and manager, Jürgen Kilsch, says: "Claudia is going through something of an upheaval." She herself has indirectly confirmed itby saying: "I don't think about tennis day and night any longer. It is still the most important thing and I concentrate on it 100 per cent. But no longer 130 per cent."

She has been on the international tennis circuit for eight years, since she was 15. "When I left school, I was happy at not having to do anything except play tennis. But as the years go past, you see there are other things."

No longer does she want to be the No. 1 — this in any case is due to become Graf's property at some stage — but she would like to win one of the Grand Slam tournaments, Wimbledon, France, United States or Australia.

The only world-class player she has not beaten is Chris Lloyd, yet the really big win has eluded her. Klaus Hofsäss, who is in charge of the German national women's team, explains the problem of motivation: "It gets terribly difficult when someone plays well year after year but doesn't manage a major win."

Kohde-Kilsch has spent years trying to do what Graf is doing: winning tournaments and getting recognition. Graf has got the recognition despite the looming presence of Boris Becker.

The personal relationship between Kohde-Kilsch and Graf has also suffered a little, which is understandable. Kohde-Kilsch says: "Steffi is a lovely girl but our relationship has cooled off since the start of the year. She barely says hullo any more. I don't know why. It's a pity. I haven't done anything to her and she hasn't done anything to me."

In the Federation Cup, the unofficial world team championship which this year is in Vancouver, Canada, at the end of July, the rivals will be together. They may even play together if Hofsäss wants them in the doubles.

But Kohde-Kilsch knows where she stands: it is firmly in place No. 2.

Wolfgang Scheffler

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 May 1987)



There's only one star, says Claudia Kohde-Kilsch (right) about Steffi Graf (left). (Photo: Werek)